



The UFO Rabbit Hole

**A RATIONAL APPROACH
TO ANCIENT ALIENS
[PT 2]**

Episode 9

1
00:00:16,290 --> 00:00:16,010

[Music]

2
00:00:30,710 --> 00:00:16,300

[Applause]

3
00:00:35,910 --> 00:00:32,630

welcome back to the ufo rabbit hole

4
00:00:38,790 --> 00:00:35,920

podcast i'm your host kelly chase

5
00:00:40,790 --> 00:00:38,800

today we dive into part two of what was

6
00:00:43,510 --> 00:00:40,800

once a single episode and is now

7
00:00:45,430 --> 00:00:43,520

apparently a trilogy that aims to put

8
00:00:47,590 --> 00:00:45,440

forth a rational approach to the

9
00:00:50,069 --> 00:00:47,600

question of whether or not the ufo

10
00:00:52,950 --> 00:00:50,079

phenomenon may have interacted and

11
00:00:56,549 --> 00:00:52,960

perhaps even intervened with humans in

12
00:00:58,389 --> 00:00:56,559

the distant past and if so what impact

13
00:01:00,389 --> 00:00:58,399

this interaction may have had on our

14

00:01:02,310 --> 00:01:00,399

species and the development of human

15

00:01:04,630 --> 00:01:02,320

civilization

16

00:01:06,789 --> 00:01:04,640

this idea referred to as the ancient

17

00:01:09,670 --> 00:01:06,799

astronaut theory and popularized by the

18

00:01:11,750 --> 00:01:09,680

show ancient aliens is one that emerges

19

00:01:13,109 --> 00:01:11,760

again and again as you begin to study

20

00:01:15,590 --> 00:01:13,119

ufology

21

00:01:18,630 --> 00:01:15,600

the evidence that the ufo phenomenon has

22

00:01:21,749 --> 00:01:18,640

played a clear albeit baffling role in

23

00:01:23,190 --> 00:01:21,759

human history is considerable something

24

00:01:25,910 --> 00:01:23,200

that we'll get into more in future

25

00:01:27,990 --> 00:01:25,920

episodes and is woven throughout our

26

00:01:30,230 --> 00:01:28,000

stories and art around the world

27

00:01:31,990 --> 00:01:30,240

spanning back as far into our past as

28

00:01:34,310 --> 00:01:32,000

these things appear

29

00:01:36,069 --> 00:01:34,320

there's something undeniably different

30

00:01:38,390 --> 00:01:36,079

about humanity

31

00:01:40,789 --> 00:01:38,400

as far as we're aware despite billions

32

00:01:43,429 --> 00:01:40,799

of years of evolution on this planet

33

00:01:45,910 --> 00:01:43,439

humans are the first species to appear

34

00:01:47,350 --> 00:01:45,920

with the capacity for what we define as

35

00:01:49,670 --> 00:01:47,360

intelligence

36

00:01:52,469 --> 00:01:49,680

we're seemingly the first species to

37

00:01:54,550 --> 00:01:52,479

create art to develop complex language

38

00:01:55,670 --> 00:01:54,560

to develop agriculture and to build

39

00:01:57,670 --> 00:01:55,680

cities

40

00:01:59,590 --> 00:01:57,680

we're the first species to not just

41

00:02:02,310 --> 00:01:59,600

wonder about who we are in the grand

42

00:02:04,709 --> 00:02:02,320

scheme of the cosmos but to develop

43

00:02:06,709 --> 00:02:04,719

complex frameworks and methodologies to

44

00:02:08,469 --> 00:02:06,719

begin to pursue the truth behind these

45

00:02:11,270 --> 00:02:08,479

mysteries ourselves

46

00:02:13,430 --> 00:02:11,280

i mean we went to the moon

47

00:02:15,830 --> 00:02:13,440

and yet our nearest cousins the

48

00:02:18,630 --> 00:02:15,840

chimpanzees highly intelligent though

49

00:02:19,990 --> 00:02:18,640

they may be are only fractionally closer

50

00:02:22,470 --> 00:02:20,000

to writing the declaration of

51
00:02:24,790 --> 00:02:22,480
independence than your average dog the

52
00:02:26,229 --> 00:02:24,800
differences between us are undeniable

53
00:02:29,910 --> 00:02:26,239
and profound

54
00:02:31,990 --> 00:02:29,920
and the reality is that we have no idea

55
00:02:34,309 --> 00:02:32,000
why we are so different

56
00:02:37,589 --> 00:02:34,319
the unique quality of our humanity is

57
00:02:39,830 --> 00:02:37,599
self-evident but where did it come from

58
00:02:41,910 --> 00:02:39,840
are we just very smart apes who through

59
00:02:43,990 --> 00:02:41,920
trial and error and no small amount of

60
00:02:45,830 --> 00:02:44,000
luck over millions of years just

61
00:02:48,390 --> 00:02:45,840
happened upon the path to math

62
00:02:49,830 --> 00:02:48,400
philosophy art agriculture and

63
00:02:52,470 --> 00:02:49,840

government

64

00:02:54,790 --> 00:02:52,480

or is there perhaps more to it than that

65

00:02:57,030 --> 00:02:54,800

could we have been given a boost some

66

00:02:59,110 --> 00:02:57,040

form of guidance or revelation from a

67

00:03:01,430 --> 00:02:59,120

more advanced intelligence

68

00:03:04,229 --> 00:03:01,440

the mysteries of our past certainly seem

69

00:03:06,630 --> 00:03:04,239

to raise this intriguing possibility

70

00:03:08,550 --> 00:03:06,640

so let's take some time to dive into the

71

00:03:10,949 --> 00:03:08,560

evidence surrounding the emergence of

72

00:03:12,869 --> 00:03:10,959

one of the most unique and astonishing

73

00:03:15,350 --> 00:03:12,879

of humanity's achievements the

74

00:03:17,430 --> 00:03:15,360

development of high civilization

75

00:03:20,070 --> 00:03:17,440

to see what clues there might be about

76

00:03:23,030 --> 00:03:20,080

this profound chapter in our history

77

00:03:25,670 --> 00:03:23,040

and what role if any the ufo phenomenon

78

00:03:28,149 --> 00:03:25,680

may have played in its emergence

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00:03:30,070 --> 00:03:28,159

but before we go any further we need to

80

00:03:33,509 --> 00:03:30,080

stop for a minute to get some clarity

81

00:03:35,910 --> 00:03:33,519

around what civilization actually is

82

00:03:37,830 --> 00:03:35,920

after all if we're going to go look for

83

00:03:40,149 --> 00:03:37,840

clues about human civilization in the

84

00:03:41,750 --> 00:03:40,159

distant past we need to know what we're

85

00:03:43,990 --> 00:03:41,760

looking for right

86

00:03:46,789 --> 00:03:44,000

and the concept of civilization is one

87

00:03:49,270 --> 00:03:46,799

that may seem obvious but upon closer

88

00:03:51,190 --> 00:03:49,280

inspection is anything but

89

00:03:53,429 --> 00:03:51,200

we use that word in a lot of different

90

00:03:55,990 --> 00:03:53,439

ways in our everyday lives

91

00:03:57,670 --> 00:03:56,000

for some civilization is running water

92

00:03:59,509 --> 00:03:57,680

for others a place needs to have at

93

00:04:01,190 --> 00:03:59,519

least one michelin star restaurant to

94

00:04:02,869 --> 00:04:01,200

qualify

95

00:04:05,270 --> 00:04:02,879

and when we look at more technical

96

00:04:07,270 --> 00:04:05,280

definitions of civilization in an

97

00:04:09,190 --> 00:04:07,280

attempt to understand and trace its

98

00:04:10,949 --> 00:04:09,200

emergence things get even more

99

00:04:13,350 --> 00:04:10,959

complicated

100

00:04:15,670 --> 00:04:13,360

there are a lot of layers and a lot of

101

00:04:18,310 --> 00:04:15,680

history around the very idea of

102

00:04:20,469 --> 00:04:18,320

civilization that we need to unpack in

103

00:04:23,110 --> 00:04:20,479

order for us to take a more informed and

104

00:04:25,670 --> 00:04:23,120

nuanced look at the evidence and begin

105

00:04:27,749 --> 00:04:25,680

to understand what secrets may lie in

106

00:04:30,550 --> 00:04:27,759

our distant past

107

00:04:32,310 --> 00:04:30,560

the word civilization brings to mind so

108

00:04:34,150 --> 00:04:32,320

many of the things that make humans

109

00:04:35,189 --> 00:04:34,160

unique among the other animals on this

110

00:04:37,830 --> 00:04:35,199

planet

111

00:04:39,909 --> 00:04:37,840

things like art language knowledge

112

00:04:43,030 --> 00:04:39,919

technology and government

113

00:04:45,110 --> 00:04:43,040

but how would we define it exactly

114

00:04:47,350 --> 00:04:45,120

an important distinction to make here is

115

00:04:48,629 --> 00:04:47,360

the difference between civilization and

116

00:04:53,350 --> 00:04:48,639

culture

117

00:04:55,189 --> 00:04:53,360

living built up by human beings and

118

00:04:58,390 --> 00:04:55,199

transmitted from one generation to

119

00:05:00,230 --> 00:04:58,400

another culture is a complex entity

120

00:05:02,710 --> 00:05:00,240

that's made up of a confluence of

121

00:05:05,909 --> 00:05:02,720

disparate parts and can include things

122

00:05:09,350 --> 00:05:05,919

such as art customs morals beliefs

123

00:05:10,390 --> 00:05:09,360

religion food and even laws

124

00:05:12,550 --> 00:05:10,400

civilization

125

00:05:15,189 --> 00:05:12,560

on the other hand is an advanced state

126
00:05:17,350 --> 00:05:15,199
of human society in which a high level

127
00:05:19,350 --> 00:05:17,360
of culture science industry and

128
00:05:22,070 --> 00:05:19,360
government has been reached

129
00:05:23,270 --> 00:05:22,080
a civilization is made up of and springs

130
00:05:25,510 --> 00:05:23,280
from culture

131
00:05:27,670 --> 00:05:25,520
but is also associated with a number of

132
00:05:29,830 --> 00:05:27,680
social political and economic

133
00:05:33,029 --> 00:05:29,840
characteristics such as urban

134
00:05:35,830 --> 00:05:33,039
development social stratification unique

135
00:05:38,870 --> 00:05:35,840
art and architecture a form of detailed

136
00:05:41,270 --> 00:05:38,880
writing complex division of labor

137
00:05:42,550 --> 00:05:41,280
codified laws and administration and

138
00:05:47,350 --> 00:05:42,560

more

139

00:05:48,310 --> 00:05:47,360

so art culture museums civilization

140

00:05:49,510 --> 00:05:48,320

food

141

00:05:50,870 --> 00:05:49,520

culture

142

00:05:53,830 --> 00:05:50,880

culinary school

143

00:05:55,749 --> 00:05:53,840

civilization a group of people can have

144

00:05:56,710 --> 00:05:55,759

and enforce laws as part of their

145

00:05:59,029 --> 00:05:56,720

culture

146

00:06:01,270 --> 00:05:59,039

but in a civilization those laws are

147

00:06:03,430 --> 00:06:01,280

codified and enforced by specialist

148

00:06:06,550 --> 00:06:03,440

groups assembled for that purpose like

149

00:06:08,790 --> 00:06:06,560

legislative bodies and police forces so

150

00:06:10,710 --> 00:06:08,800

this distinction gives us a decent place

151
00:06:13,350 --> 00:06:10,720
to start talking about how to truly

152
00:06:15,749 --> 00:06:13,360
define what a civilization is

153
00:06:18,070 --> 00:06:15,759
our culture emerges from our humanity

154
00:06:20,710 --> 00:06:18,080
our sense of beauty our sense of order

155
00:06:23,510 --> 00:06:20,720
our sense of right and wrong and culture

156
00:06:25,350 --> 00:06:23,520
can exist without civilization we see

157
00:06:27,350 --> 00:06:25,360
this in humanity's past where we have

158
00:06:29,590 --> 00:06:27,360
examples of cave art dating back at

159
00:06:31,749 --> 00:06:29,600
least 40 000 years

160
00:06:35,350 --> 00:06:31,759
but civilization on the other hand

161
00:06:37,990 --> 00:06:35,360
emerges from complexity complex ideas

162
00:06:39,830 --> 00:06:38,000
complex ways of meeting needs complex

163
00:06:42,550 --> 00:06:39,840

social structures

164

00:06:45,590 --> 00:06:42,560

and yet still this definition feels a

165

00:06:48,309 --> 00:06:45,600

little soft where is that line between

166

00:06:50,469 --> 00:06:48,319

the simple and the complex and how do we

167

00:06:52,870 --> 00:06:50,479

definitively say when a group of people

168

00:06:54,710 --> 00:06:52,880

have crossed that threshold and how

169

00:06:57,749 --> 00:06:54,720

would we recognize the signs of that

170

00:06:59,909 --> 00:06:57,759

transition in the distant past

171

00:07:02,629 --> 00:06:59,919

because of the complexities of defining

172

00:07:04,469 --> 00:07:02,639

what exactly a civilization is

173

00:07:07,430 --> 00:07:04,479

many experts have settled on written

174

00:07:10,150 --> 00:07:07,440

language as the defining characteristic

175

00:07:12,390 --> 00:07:10,160

and this makes sense in a lot of ways

176

00:07:15,029 --> 00:07:12,400

first of all writing gives us something

177

00:07:17,350 --> 00:07:15,039

concrete and discoverable by which to

178

00:07:19,589 --> 00:07:17,360

define civilization

179

00:07:21,990 --> 00:07:19,599

things like a complex social structure

180

00:07:24,230 --> 00:07:22,000

and codified laws can be inferred about

181

00:07:25,830 --> 00:07:24,240

a group of people based on the evidence

182

00:07:28,150 --> 00:07:25,840

they leave behind

183

00:07:30,469 --> 00:07:28,160

but without a written language to

184

00:07:33,110 --> 00:07:30,479

decipher it is difficult if not

185

00:07:34,469 --> 00:07:33,120

impossible for us to know much about

186

00:07:37,189 --> 00:07:34,479

them

187

00:07:38,950 --> 00:07:37,199

written language itself also implies a

188

00:07:41,189 --> 00:07:38,960

level of social complexity that we

189

00:07:43,830 --> 00:07:41,199

associate with civilization

190

00:07:46,150 --> 00:07:43,840

its very existence implies the need for

191

00:07:47,909 --> 00:07:46,160

complex information to be conveyed to a

192

00:07:50,309 --> 00:07:47,919

large group of people

193

00:07:52,469 --> 00:07:50,319

it implies some kind of formal or at

194

00:07:55,430 --> 00:07:52,479

least structured education

195

00:07:57,909 --> 00:07:55,440

it implies a permanence or perhaps more

196

00:08:00,710 --> 00:07:57,919

accurately a persistence of a group's

197

00:08:03,189 --> 00:08:00,720

culture and a sense of identity

198

00:08:04,950 --> 00:08:03,199

for these reasons written language is an

199

00:08:06,629 --> 00:08:04,960

intuitive benchmark

200

00:08:09,110 --> 00:08:06,639

and if you have to draw the line in the

201
00:08:10,710 --> 00:08:09,120
sand somewhere to clearly define what

202
00:08:12,710 --> 00:08:10,720
civilization is

203
00:08:14,150 --> 00:08:12,720
written language feels like a good place

204
00:08:16,629 --> 00:08:14,160
to do it

205
00:08:18,390 --> 00:08:16,639
however there are some issues with this

206
00:08:20,629 --> 00:08:18,400
approach as well

207
00:08:22,790 --> 00:08:20,639
i'd argue that for written language to

208
00:08:24,550 --> 00:08:22,800
be used as a reliable benchmark for

209
00:08:27,510 --> 00:08:24,560
human civilization

210
00:08:29,830 --> 00:08:27,520
then at minimum two things need to be

211
00:08:31,189 --> 00:08:29,840
true of the examples of written language

212
00:08:32,709 --> 00:08:31,199
that are left behind by that

213
00:08:36,149 --> 00:08:32,719

civilization

214

00:08:37,750 --> 00:08:36,159

they must be durable and recognizable

215

00:08:39,589 --> 00:08:37,760

let's take a minute to talk about what i

216

00:08:42,149 --> 00:08:39,599

mean by that

217

00:08:45,350 --> 00:08:42,159

so first of all for us to find this

218

00:08:47,670 --> 00:08:45,360

writing it still has to exist somewhere

219

00:08:49,509 --> 00:08:47,680

which means that it has to be durable it

220

00:08:50,630 --> 00:08:49,519

has to survive long enough for us to

221

00:08:53,030 --> 00:08:50,640

find it

222

00:08:55,750 --> 00:08:53,040

however more often than not written

223

00:08:57,670 --> 00:08:55,760

language isn't very durable or rather

224

00:08:59,910 --> 00:08:57,680

the materials that are used for written

225

00:09:02,550 --> 00:08:59,920

language aren't very durable

226

00:09:05,030 --> 00:09:02,560

organic materials like paper and papyrus

227

00:09:07,350 --> 00:09:05,040

for example eventually decay

228

00:09:09,590 --> 00:09:07,360

they're also particularly vulnerable to

229

00:09:11,990 --> 00:09:09,600

damage from everything from fires to

230

00:09:15,110 --> 00:09:12,000

floods to simple humidity

231

00:09:16,949 --> 00:09:15,120

the library of alexandria comes to mind

232

00:09:18,870 --> 00:09:16,959

believed to have been built sometime

233

00:09:21,269 --> 00:09:18,880

around 250 bc

234

00:09:23,590 --> 00:09:21,279

the library of alexandria in egypt was

235

00:09:25,910 --> 00:09:23,600

perhaps the largest and most significant

236

00:09:27,990 --> 00:09:25,920

library of the ancient world

237

00:09:30,230 --> 00:09:28,000

at its height it was said to have housed

238

00:09:32,550 --> 00:09:30,240

anywhere from around forty thousand to

239

00:09:34,630 --> 00:09:32,560

four hundred thousand scrolls

240

00:09:37,350 --> 00:09:34,640

despite a common misconception that the

241

00:09:40,070 --> 00:09:37,360

library was burned down entirely in one

242

00:09:42,230 --> 00:09:40,080

catastrophic incident it was actually

243

00:09:44,550 --> 00:09:42,240

partially burned three different times

244

00:09:47,269 --> 00:09:44,560

over a few hundred years during various

245

00:09:49,350 --> 00:09:47,279

wars and conflicts before falling into

246

00:09:51,430 --> 00:09:49,360

decline due to lack of funding and

247

00:09:53,590 --> 00:09:51,440

eventually disappearing entirely

248

00:09:55,030 --> 00:09:53,600

sometime in the late third century

249

00:09:56,630 --> 00:09:55,040

and this is why you've always got to

250

00:09:57,910 --> 00:09:56,640

vote to fund your library's people do

251
00:09:59,670 --> 00:09:57,920
your part

252
00:10:01,670 --> 00:09:59,680
and though the story is different from

253
00:10:04,069 --> 00:10:01,680
the story of the library of alexandria

254
00:10:07,030 --> 00:10:04,079
that is typically told it doesn't really

255
00:10:09,430 --> 00:10:07,040
matter the impact is the same

256
00:10:10,949 --> 00:10:09,440
for hundreds of years an astonishing

257
00:10:13,269 --> 00:10:10,959
wealth of human knowledge was

258
00:10:15,110 --> 00:10:13,279
meticulously stored and protected in the

259
00:10:18,310 --> 00:10:15,120
library of alexandria

260
00:10:21,430 --> 00:10:18,320
and yet now nothing of it remains

261
00:10:24,150 --> 00:10:21,440
eventually disasters wars and cultural

262
00:10:26,630 --> 00:10:24,160
atrophy devoured it all

263
00:10:28,389 --> 00:10:26,640

interestingly even in our current day we

264

00:10:30,470 --> 00:10:28,399

are confronted with the challenges of

265

00:10:32,310 --> 00:10:30,480

preserving and safeguarding records for

266

00:10:34,630 --> 00:10:32,320

future generations

267

00:10:36,790 --> 00:10:34,640

this is because more and more knowledge

268

00:10:40,150 --> 00:10:36,800

and information is being created and

269

00:10:42,230 --> 00:10:40,160

stored exclusively in a digital format

270

00:10:44,630 --> 00:10:42,240

and although technology makes it much

271

00:10:47,430 --> 00:10:44,640

easier to duplicate backup and share

272

00:10:50,150 --> 00:10:47,440

this information the technology we use

273

00:10:52,230 --> 00:10:50,160

to access it as well as the formats in

274

00:10:53,829 --> 00:10:52,240

which it is stored are constantly

275

00:10:55,350 --> 00:10:53,839

changing

276

00:10:57,110 --> 00:10:55,360

there are actually those who think that

277

00:10:59,030 --> 00:10:57,120

we're not doing enough to preserve our

278

00:11:01,590 --> 00:10:59,040

digital records and that we are at

279

00:11:02,870 --> 00:11:01,600

serious risk of creating a black hole in

280

00:11:04,470 --> 00:11:02,880

our history

281

00:11:06,470 --> 00:11:04,480

think about it this way

282

00:11:08,630 --> 00:11:06,480

how much information was stored on

283

00:11:10,550 --> 00:11:08,640

floppy disks and cds and other

284

00:11:11,670 --> 00:11:10,560

relatively short-lived data storage

285

00:11:13,910 --> 00:11:11,680

mediums

286

00:11:16,230 --> 00:11:13,920

and how far forward in the future would

287

00:11:18,870 --> 00:11:16,240

you need to go for that data to become

288

00:11:21,509 --> 00:11:18,880

virtually irretrievable

289

00:11:22,550 --> 00:11:21,519

a couple of hundred years perhaps maybe

290

00:11:24,790 --> 00:11:22,560

less

291

00:11:26,790 --> 00:11:24,800

for anyone who is unlikely to invest any

292

00:11:29,350 --> 00:11:26,800

energy in this sort of thing which i

293

00:11:32,310 --> 00:11:29,360

would argue is basically everyone those

294

00:11:33,030 --> 00:11:32,320

things are effectively irretrievable now

295

00:11:34,710 --> 00:11:33,040

so

296

00:11:36,630 --> 00:11:34,720

what can we use to preserve written

297

00:11:38,470 --> 00:11:36,640

language in a way that can withstand

298

00:11:40,630 --> 00:11:38,480

that test of time

299

00:11:43,110 --> 00:11:40,640

the most obvious answer is with pottery

300

00:11:44,710 --> 00:11:43,120

or clay tablets or if you really want to

301
00:11:45,670 --> 00:11:44,720
get serious you could carve it into

302
00:11:47,670 --> 00:11:45,680
stone

303
00:11:49,910 --> 00:11:47,680
and luckily although we've undoubtedly

304
00:11:51,670 --> 00:11:49,920
lost immense amounts of human history

305
00:11:53,350 --> 00:11:51,680
and knowledge that was stored on less

306
00:11:55,430 --> 00:11:53,360
durable materials

307
00:11:57,350 --> 00:11:55,440
our ancestors did use these sorts of

308
00:11:59,350 --> 00:11:57,360
materials as well

309
00:12:01,910 --> 00:11:59,360
the very earliest examples of writing

310
00:12:04,790 --> 00:12:01,920
that we have are on clay tablets they

311
00:12:07,190 --> 00:12:04,800
date back to around 3 500 bc in what was

312
00:12:08,310 --> 00:12:07,200
once mesopotamia and is now modern-day

313
00:12:09,750 --> 00:12:08,320

iraq

314

00:12:12,310 --> 00:12:09,760

this is where it is believed that

315

00:12:14,550 --> 00:12:12,320

written language was first developed

316

00:12:17,990 --> 00:12:14,560

we have examples of early pictographic

317

00:12:19,910 --> 00:12:18,000

writing starting at around 3500 bc that

318

00:12:23,350 --> 00:12:19,920

slowly transitioned into what we

319

00:12:25,509 --> 00:12:23,360

recognize today as cuneiform

320

00:12:27,590 --> 00:12:25,519

which brings us to our next point which

321

00:12:29,590 --> 00:12:27,600

is that for written language to be an

322

00:12:31,269 --> 00:12:29,600

effective benchmark for the emergence of

323

00:12:33,750 --> 00:12:31,279

human civilization

324

00:12:34,949 --> 00:12:33,760

we need to be able to recognize it as

325

00:12:37,430 --> 00:12:34,959

writing

326

00:12:39,750 --> 00:12:37,440

but a written language is just a set of

327

00:12:42,550 --> 00:12:39,760

symbols that convey meaning and there

328

00:12:44,790 --> 00:12:42,560

are many different kinds of languages

329

00:12:45,829 --> 00:12:44,800

in english each character represents a

330

00:12:47,829 --> 00:12:45,839

sound

331

00:12:49,590 --> 00:12:47,839

in some languages each character

332

00:12:52,069 --> 00:12:49,600

represents a syllable

333

00:12:53,590 --> 00:12:52,079

and in others each character is a word

334

00:12:54,949 --> 00:12:53,600

or an idea

335

00:12:56,870 --> 00:12:54,959

some of these characters can be

336

00:12:58,069 --> 00:12:56,880

relatively simple like in the latin

337

00:13:00,790 --> 00:12:58,079

alphabet

338

00:13:02,949 --> 00:13:00,800

or they can be complex pictographs where

339

00:13:05,269 --> 00:13:02,959

minor variations in the character can

340

00:13:07,829 --> 00:13:05,279

convey subtle layers of meaning

341

00:13:10,150 --> 00:13:07,839

chinese consists not only of characters

342

00:13:12,470 --> 00:13:10,160

representing meanings but also of

343

00:13:14,230 --> 00:13:12,480

secondary characters based on sound

344

00:13:16,230 --> 00:13:14,240

similarity for representing meanings

345

00:13:19,190 --> 00:13:16,240

that were difficult to picture

346

00:13:21,829 --> 00:13:19,200

it therefore relies upon both word-based

347

00:13:24,310 --> 00:13:21,839

and sound-based principles

348

00:13:25,910 --> 00:13:24,320

but whatever the language if we don't

349

00:13:28,150 --> 00:13:25,920

understand the meaning that these

350

00:13:29,829 --> 00:13:28,160

characters are trying to convey

351
00:13:31,670 --> 00:13:29,839
how would we even know for sure that

352
00:13:33,110 --> 00:13:31,680
what we are looking at is truly a

353
00:13:35,190 --> 00:13:33,120
written language

354
00:13:37,350 --> 00:13:35,200
what would separate random characters

355
00:13:39,590 --> 00:13:37,360
and pictographs from any other markings

356
00:13:41,990 --> 00:13:39,600
one might find on walls or tablets in

357
00:13:44,230 --> 00:13:42,000
ancient archaeological sites

358
00:13:46,150 --> 00:13:44,240
because preserving written language over

359
00:13:47,269 --> 00:13:46,160
thousands of years presents so many

360
00:13:49,269 --> 00:13:47,279
challenges

361
00:13:52,069 --> 00:13:49,279
and because we may not even recognize it

362
00:13:54,069 --> 00:13:52,079
as written language we do find it i

363
00:13:56,230 --> 00:13:54,079

think it's important to recognize the

364

00:13:58,310 --> 00:13:56,240

very real possibility that we could

365

00:14:00,150 --> 00:13:58,320

easily miss written language in the

366

00:14:02,389 --> 00:14:00,160

archaeological record

367

00:14:04,710 --> 00:14:02,399

which i would argue means that written

368

00:14:07,189 --> 00:14:04,720

language can't be a viable benchmark for

369

00:14:08,710 --> 00:14:07,199

identifying human civilization

370

00:14:10,550 --> 00:14:08,720

and so what we're left with is a

371

00:14:11,829 --> 00:14:10,560

question for which we still don't have a

372

00:14:12,870 --> 00:14:11,839

great answer

373

00:14:15,750 --> 00:14:12,880

which is

374

00:14:18,150 --> 00:14:15,760

what is civilization

375

00:14:20,310 --> 00:14:18,160

to try to answer that question i want to

376

00:14:22,310 --> 00:14:20,320

take a minute to talk about the ideas of

377

00:14:23,990 --> 00:14:22,320

one man that have perhaps shaped the

378

00:14:26,389 --> 00:14:24,000

current accepted narrative of the

379

00:14:27,750 --> 00:14:26,399

emergence of human civilization more

380

00:14:30,949 --> 00:14:27,760

than any other

381

00:14:32,790 --> 00:14:30,959

and that man is v gordon child

382

00:14:35,350 --> 00:14:32,800

child was a famed australian

383

00:14:37,910 --> 00:14:35,360

archaeologist in the early 20th century

384

00:14:39,350 --> 00:14:37,920

who specialized in the study of european

385

00:14:41,110 --> 00:14:39,360

pre-history

386

00:14:43,269 --> 00:14:41,120

he spent most of his life in the united

387

00:14:45,509 --> 00:14:43,279

kingdom working first as an academic for

388

00:14:48,550 --> 00:14:45,519

the university of edinburgh and then at

389

00:14:51,030 --> 00:14:48,560

the institution of archaeology in london

390

00:14:54,069 --> 00:14:51,040

child was known as a great synthesizer

391

00:14:55,750 --> 00:14:54,079

of archaeology and wrote 26 books during

392

00:14:57,829 --> 00:14:55,760

his career

393

00:14:59,750 --> 00:14:57,839

he initially made his mark as an early

394

00:15:02,310 --> 00:14:59,760

proponent of culture historical

395

00:15:04,389 --> 00:15:02,320

archaeology which is an archaeological

396

00:15:06,710 --> 00:15:04,399

theory that emphasizes defining

397

00:15:08,949 --> 00:15:06,720

historical societies into distinct

398

00:15:10,629 --> 00:15:08,959

ethnic and cultural groupings according

399

00:15:12,470 --> 00:15:10,639

to the art and material that their

400

00:15:13,509 --> 00:15:12,480

culture produced

401
00:15:15,910 --> 00:15:13,519
however

402
00:15:18,710 --> 00:15:15,920
later in his career he became a staunch

403
00:15:20,230 --> 00:15:18,720
proponent of marxist archaeology which

404
00:15:22,310 --> 00:15:20,240
is a theory that interprets

405
00:15:24,230 --> 00:15:22,320
archaeological information within the

406
00:15:26,629 --> 00:15:24,240
framework of marxism

407
00:15:28,389 --> 00:15:26,639
now whatever your opinion of marxism i

408
00:15:30,230 --> 00:15:28,399
think we can all at least agree on the

409
00:15:32,629 --> 00:15:30,240
idea that interpreting the lives and

410
00:15:33,910 --> 00:15:32,639
cultures of ancient people entirely

411
00:15:37,189 --> 00:15:33,920
through the lens of a modern

412
00:15:38,629 --> 00:15:37,199
socio-economic theory is at best a dodgy

413
00:15:40,710 --> 00:15:38,639

approach

414

00:15:42,550 --> 00:15:40,720

but this is also something that we as

415

00:15:44,710 --> 00:15:42,560

humans do a lot

416

00:15:46,790 --> 00:15:44,720

we tend to apply the blueprint of our

417

00:15:49,030 --> 00:15:46,800

current understanding to unfamiliar

418

00:15:50,710 --> 00:15:49,040

cultures and concepts assuming that

419

00:15:51,829 --> 00:15:50,720

they're more like us than they actually

420

00:15:53,509 --> 00:15:51,839

are

421

00:15:56,150 --> 00:15:53,519

i spent a few years traveling and living

422

00:15:58,629 --> 00:15:56,160

abroad and until i had that experience i

423

00:16:00,870 --> 00:15:58,639

don't think that i truly understood how

424

00:16:03,269 --> 00:16:00,880

much that's true

425

00:16:05,110 --> 00:16:03,279

every culture is deeply coded with

426

00:16:08,069 --> 00:16:05,120

nuanced layers of meaning threaded

427

00:16:09,749 --> 00:16:08,079

throughout each and every interaction

428

00:16:11,749 --> 00:16:09,759

we don't notice it when we're embedded

429

00:16:13,670 --> 00:16:11,759

within our own culture because that

430

00:16:15,829 --> 00:16:13,680

culture is the context in which we live

431

00:16:17,110 --> 00:16:15,839

our lives it's as natural to us as

432

00:16:19,189 --> 00:16:17,120

breathing

433

00:16:20,230 --> 00:16:19,199

but when we find ourselves in a foreign

434

00:16:22,389 --> 00:16:20,240

culture

435

00:16:23,430 --> 00:16:22,399

suddenly all of that comes sharply into

436

00:16:25,509 --> 00:16:23,440

focus

437

00:16:27,350 --> 00:16:25,519

we can be easily confounded by the

438

00:16:28,870 --> 00:16:27,360

simplest things

439

00:16:30,949 --> 00:16:28,880

do you wait to be seated or seat

440

00:16:33,110 --> 00:16:30,959

yourself do you tip

441

00:16:33,910 --> 00:16:33,120

do you shake hands when you meet do you

442

00:16:35,269 --> 00:16:33,920

hug

443

00:16:37,430 --> 00:16:35,279

do you bow

444

00:16:38,310 --> 00:16:37,440

or maybe you go for the european cheat

445

00:16:40,069 --> 00:16:38,320

kiss

446

00:16:41,749 --> 00:16:40,079

but one cheek or two

447

00:16:43,509 --> 00:16:41,759

surprise you're in amsterdam and the

448

00:16:45,189 --> 00:16:43,519

answer is three

449

00:16:47,189 --> 00:16:45,199

i actually lived in amsterdam for a

450

00:16:49,670 --> 00:16:47,199

couple of years and i found myself in

451
00:16:51,829 --> 00:16:49,680
these situations all the time and it

452
00:16:54,150 --> 00:16:51,839
says a lot that this was true even in a

453
00:16:56,069 --> 00:16:54,160
place like amsterdam a western

454
00:16:58,230 --> 00:16:56,079
democratic country with a shared

455
00:17:00,069 --> 00:16:58,240
eurocentric historical perspective and

456
00:17:02,629 --> 00:17:00,079
whose citizens basically are all

457
00:17:05,029 --> 00:17:02,639
conversational or better in english

458
00:17:07,429 --> 00:17:05,039
but despite those many similarities the

459
00:17:09,510 --> 00:17:07,439
dutch perspective is so entirely

460
00:17:11,350 --> 00:17:09,520
different from the american one that i

461
00:17:12,630 --> 00:17:11,360
was constantly caught off guard by

462
00:17:15,110 --> 00:17:12,640
something that seemingly should have

463
00:17:17,590 --> 00:17:15,120

been obvious to me but wasn't

464

00:17:19,350 --> 00:17:17,600

here's a quick example of what i mean

465

00:17:21,110 --> 00:17:19,360

a popular tourist attraction in

466

00:17:23,029 --> 00:17:21,120

amsterdam during the time that i lived

467

00:17:25,270 --> 00:17:23,039

there was a giant sign made out of

468

00:17:28,549 --> 00:17:25,280

enormous black letters that said

469

00:17:30,310 --> 00:17:28,559

i amsterdam with the i and the am in red

470

00:17:32,789 --> 00:17:30,320

and the rest in white so it effectively

471

00:17:34,390 --> 00:17:32,799

said i am amsterdam

472

00:17:36,390 --> 00:17:34,400

these signs were all around the city

473

00:17:38,549 --> 00:17:36,400

from the airport to the world famous

474

00:17:40,150 --> 00:17:38,559

museum plan and people would climb up on

475

00:17:41,190 --> 00:17:40,160

the letters and take pictures for the

476
00:17:42,230 --> 00:17:41,200
gram

477
00:17:44,230 --> 00:17:42,240
however

478
00:17:46,870 --> 00:17:44,240
in 2018 it was announced that the

479
00:17:48,950 --> 00:17:46,880
popular installations would be removed

480
00:17:50,870 --> 00:17:48,960
the decision was made by majority vote

481
00:17:53,110 --> 00:17:50,880
by the amsterdam city council in

482
00:17:56,150 --> 00:17:53,120
response to a motion filed that said the

483
00:17:59,110 --> 00:17:56,160
sign was too individualistic and didn't

484
00:18:02,070 --> 00:17:59,120
promote solidarity and diversity

485
00:18:03,190 --> 00:18:02,080
now to most americans this is a baffling

486
00:18:05,590 --> 00:18:03,200
argument

487
00:18:07,590 --> 00:18:05,600
we are a nation founded on the almost

488
00:18:09,190 --> 00:18:07,600

worshipful notion of rugged

489

00:18:14,070 --> 00:18:09,200

individualism

490

00:18:15,430 --> 00:18:14,080

virtue not a societal vice that needs to

491

00:18:17,270 --> 00:18:15,440

be overcome

492

00:18:19,830 --> 00:18:17,280

and while we also believe in the ideals

493

00:18:21,830 --> 00:18:19,840

of solidarity and diversity we see it as

494

00:18:24,950 --> 00:18:21,840

solidarity among self-defined

495

00:18:27,590 --> 00:18:24,960

individuals we see individualism as the

496

00:18:29,029 --> 00:18:27,600

cornerstone of diversity not the enemy

497

00:18:30,470 --> 00:18:29,039

of it

498

00:18:32,549 --> 00:18:30,480

but to the dutch

499

00:18:34,789 --> 00:18:32,559

individualism is at the root of what

500

00:18:37,029 --> 00:18:34,799

they see as an increasingly sick and

501

00:18:39,350 --> 00:18:37,039

unbalanced western culture

502

00:18:40,950 --> 00:18:39,360

it is antithetical to their collectivist

503

00:18:44,470 --> 00:18:40,960

beliefs that place the needs of the

504

00:18:47,029 --> 00:18:44,480

whole above the needs of the individual

505

00:18:49,270 --> 00:18:47,039

they see aggressive individualism as the

506

00:18:51,270 --> 00:18:49,280

root cause of much of the injustice and

507

00:18:54,150 --> 00:18:51,280

inequality in the world

508

00:18:56,549 --> 00:18:54,160

and to be honest even as i'm saying this

509

00:18:58,150 --> 00:18:56,559

i'm not 100 confident that i'm properly

510

00:19:00,630 --> 00:18:58,160

conveying their point of view on all of

511

00:19:03,350 --> 00:19:00,640

this because i don't know that i totally

512

00:19:05,350 --> 00:19:03,360

understand it the idea is just so

513

00:19:06,789 --> 00:19:05,360

fundamentally foreign

514

00:19:08,390 --> 00:19:06,799

and the question of who's right and

515

00:19:10,710 --> 00:19:08,400

who's wrong doesn't matter and is

516

00:19:12,870 --> 00:19:10,720

honestly probably asinine

517

00:19:14,870 --> 00:19:12,880

the point is that even cultures that

518

00:19:16,870 --> 00:19:14,880

exist at the same time and that have

519

00:19:19,430 --> 00:19:16,880

significant amounts of overlap in their

520

00:19:21,270 --> 00:19:19,440

shared experience can be very different

521

00:19:23,110 --> 00:19:21,280

from one another and can operate with

522

00:19:25,510 --> 00:19:23,120

entirely different sets of beliefs and

523

00:19:28,230 --> 00:19:25,520

motivations that would likely not be

524

00:19:30,630 --> 00:19:28,240

immediately obvious to outsiders

525

00:19:33,510 --> 00:19:30,640

which is why i'd argue that it's almost

526

00:19:35,590 --> 00:19:33,520

impossible for us to easily understand

527

00:19:38,470 --> 00:19:35,600

how different a culture that existed

528

00:19:40,950 --> 00:19:38,480

2000 years ago is from our own

529

00:19:43,350 --> 00:19:40,960

and when you go further back into time

530

00:19:44,950 --> 00:19:43,360

to five thousand years ten thousand

531

00:19:47,750 --> 00:19:44,960

years and beyond

532

00:19:49,350 --> 00:19:47,760

those differences inevitably only become

533

00:19:50,470 --> 00:19:49,360

more profound

534

00:19:52,870 --> 00:19:50,480

and so

535

00:19:55,990 --> 00:19:52,880

to conduct effective archaeological

536

00:19:58,470 --> 00:19:56,000

inquiry we need to always be cognizant

537

00:20:00,950 --> 00:19:58,480

of this fact and do our best not to

538

00:20:03,669 --> 00:20:00,960

place the blueprint of our experience on

539

00:20:04,789 --> 00:20:03,679

top of things that we don't understand

540

00:20:07,110 --> 00:20:04,799

so

541

00:20:09,590 --> 00:20:07,120

getting back to v gordon child the

542

00:20:11,669 --> 00:20:09,600

takeaway is that his ideas changed a lot

543

00:20:13,350 --> 00:20:11,679

throughout his career and while he was

544

00:20:15,669 --> 00:20:13,360

well respected and made important

545

00:20:17,430 --> 00:20:15,679

contributions to archaeology

546

00:20:19,590 --> 00:20:17,440

many of his ideas have come into

547

00:20:20,630 --> 00:20:19,600

question or have been outright disproven

548

00:20:24,310 --> 00:20:20,640

since

549

00:20:26,630 --> 00:20:24,320

however despite this those same ideas

550

00:20:28,470 --> 00:20:26,640

still form the basis for what much of

551
00:20:30,789 --> 00:20:28,480
the mainstream narrative around the

552
00:20:32,230 --> 00:20:30,799
emergence of human civilization is to

553
00:20:34,630 --> 00:20:32,240
this day

554
00:20:37,270 --> 00:20:34,640
as we talk through some of these ideas

555
00:20:38,149 --> 00:20:37,280
they'll likely be familiar to you

556
00:20:39,350 --> 00:20:38,159
so

557
00:20:42,070 --> 00:20:39,360
first of all

558
00:20:44,470 --> 00:20:42,080
child divided pre-industrial societies

559
00:20:48,630 --> 00:20:44,480
into three main categories

560
00:20:50,630 --> 00:20:48,640
savagery barbarism and civilization

561
00:20:52,870 --> 00:20:50,640
and these aren't just categories but

562
00:20:55,350 --> 00:20:52,880
represent a hierarchical progression

563
00:20:58,870 --> 00:20:55,360

from least to most advanced

564

00:21:01,510 --> 00:20:58,880

according to child savages came first or

565

00:21:04,230 --> 00:21:01,520

to use a more accurate definition these

566

00:21:06,470 --> 00:21:04,240

were hunter-gatherers these people lived

567

00:21:09,270 --> 00:21:06,480

off of wild foods that they obtained by

568

00:21:10,710 --> 00:21:09,280

hunting fishing gathering foraging and

569

00:21:13,029 --> 00:21:10,720

scavenging

570

00:21:15,190 --> 00:21:13,039

next came barbarians

571

00:21:17,190 --> 00:21:15,200

these groups of early humans might still

572

00:21:19,110 --> 00:21:17,200

hunt and gather to some extent but they

573

00:21:21,990 --> 00:21:19,120

also began to supplement their food

574

00:21:24,070 --> 00:21:22,000

supply by cultivating plants and or

575

00:21:26,470 --> 00:21:24,080

herding and breeding animals

576

00:21:28,149 --> 00:21:26,480

cultivation and herding necessitated

577

00:21:30,070 --> 00:21:28,159

that small groups of people band

578

00:21:32,549 --> 00:21:30,080

together to protect small patches of

579

00:21:35,190 --> 00:21:32,559

land being used for that purpose

580

00:21:37,510 --> 00:21:35,200

then people began to weed water irrigate

581

00:21:39,430 --> 00:21:37,520

and even engaged in selective breeding

582

00:21:40,390 --> 00:21:39,440

in order to get more yield out of their

583

00:21:45,590 --> 00:21:40,400

land

584

00:21:49,270 --> 00:21:45,600

became more complex but they also led to

585

00:21:51,270 --> 00:21:49,280

more abundant outcomes aka more food

586

00:21:54,310 --> 00:21:51,280

as a result larger and larger

587

00:21:55,750 --> 00:21:54,320

communities arose around this land

588

00:21:57,830 --> 00:21:55,760

and then finally

589

00:22:00,149 --> 00:21:57,840

once these communities reached a certain

590

00:22:03,430 --> 00:22:00,159

size and level of complexity

591

00:22:05,430 --> 00:22:03,440

child defined this as civilization

592

00:22:07,110 --> 00:22:05,440

pretty straightforward right

593

00:22:09,270 --> 00:22:07,120

and it's probably not too different from

594

00:22:10,310 --> 00:22:09,280

what you learned in school

595

00:22:12,230 --> 00:22:10,320

however

596

00:22:15,110 --> 00:22:12,240

there are some serious issues with

597

00:22:16,310 --> 00:22:15,120

child's models that are worth discussing

598

00:22:18,230 --> 00:22:16,320

first of all

599

00:22:20,390 --> 00:22:18,240

child himself admitted that it was

600

00:22:23,190 --> 00:22:20,400

difficult to clearly define where the

601
00:22:24,710 --> 00:22:23,200
line between barbarism and civilization

602
00:22:27,190 --> 00:22:24,720
actually lies

603
00:22:29,430 --> 00:22:27,200
he generally equated civilization with

604
00:22:31,669 --> 00:22:29,440
urbanism and city life

605
00:22:33,669 --> 00:22:31,679
but recognized that that was also a

606
00:22:35,830 --> 00:22:33,679
difficult thing to define

607
00:22:38,070 --> 00:22:35,840
so he tended to agree with the view that

608
00:22:41,029 --> 00:22:38,080
britain language was the best benchmark

609
00:22:42,549 --> 00:22:41,039
for identifying true civilization

610
00:22:45,190 --> 00:22:42,559
and we've already discussed how that

611
00:22:47,029 --> 00:22:45,200
approach while convenient is inherently

612
00:22:49,110 --> 00:22:47,039
problematic

613
00:22:50,789 --> 00:22:49,120

the second issue is that the language

614

00:22:52,830 --> 00:22:50,799

that he chose to describe these

615

00:22:55,830 --> 00:22:52,840

different stages of pre-industrial human

616

00:22:59,110 --> 00:22:55,840

societies is coded with a cultural bias

617

00:23:00,549 --> 00:22:59,120

that can lead to incorrect conclusions

618

00:23:03,190 --> 00:23:00,559

for example

619

00:23:05,830 --> 00:23:03,200

a savage is defined as a brutal or

620

00:23:08,789 --> 00:23:05,840

vicious person or a member of a people

621

00:23:11,110 --> 00:23:08,799

regarded as primitive and uncivilized

622

00:23:13,029 --> 00:23:11,120

on the other hand a hunter-gatherer is a

623

00:23:14,710 --> 00:23:13,039

member of a nomadic people who live

624

00:23:16,470 --> 00:23:14,720

chiefly by hunting and fishing and

625

00:23:18,149 --> 00:23:16,480

harvesting wild food

626

00:23:19,750 --> 00:23:18,159

do you hear the difference

627

00:23:21,909 --> 00:23:19,760

and i want to be very clear that what

628

00:23:23,110 --> 00:23:21,919

we're talking about here isn't political

629

00:23:25,750 --> 00:23:23,120

correctness

630

00:23:28,149 --> 00:23:25,760

this is about accuracy in word choice

631

00:23:30,789 --> 00:23:28,159

and guarding against unconscious bias

632

00:23:33,190 --> 00:23:30,799

and our understanding of ancient people

633

00:23:35,190 --> 00:23:33,200

and we can easily see in this example

634

00:23:37,909 --> 00:23:35,200

how the use of the word savages to

635

00:23:40,549 --> 00:23:37,919

describe people who are hunter-gatherers

636

00:23:42,549 --> 00:23:40,559

layers unnecessary and unintended

637

00:23:45,430 --> 00:23:42,559

meaning onto the concept that can

638

00:23:47,430 --> 00:23:45,440

obscure our understanding

639

00:23:49,350 --> 00:23:47,440

we assume that because a group of people

640

00:23:52,470 --> 00:23:49,360

were hunter-gatherers that they were

641

00:23:54,789 --> 00:23:52,480

primitive brutal and uncivilized

642

00:23:56,789 --> 00:23:54,799

we assume that high culture and advanced

643

00:23:59,510 --> 00:23:56,799

knowledge can only exist within a

644

00:24:02,149 --> 00:23:59,520

civilized society which is a concept

645

00:24:04,549 --> 00:24:02,159

that we've arbitrarily tied to city life

646

00:24:07,029 --> 00:24:04,559

and written language even though we have

647

00:24:08,789 --> 00:24:07,039

trouble clearly defining and identifying

648

00:24:10,549 --> 00:24:08,799

either of those things

649

00:24:13,190 --> 00:24:10,559

and even though we can't clearly

650

00:24:14,710 --> 00:24:13,200

articulate a reason why those things

651
00:24:17,029 --> 00:24:14,720
should be the ultimate defining

652
00:24:19,190 --> 00:24:17,039
characteristics of civilization and

653
00:24:21,430 --> 00:24:19,200
advanced human achievement

654
00:24:23,830 --> 00:24:21,440
and although there is abundant evidence

655
00:24:25,990 --> 00:24:23,840
which we'll get into in just a minute to

656
00:24:28,149 --> 00:24:26,000
show that these ideas are flawed and

657
00:24:30,310 --> 00:24:28,159
don't accurately represent the emergence

658
00:24:31,350 --> 00:24:30,320
of human civilization as it actually

659
00:24:33,510 --> 00:24:31,360
occurred

660
00:24:35,269 --> 00:24:33,520
they still persist both within the

661
00:24:38,630 --> 00:24:35,279
cultural zeitgeist and within

662
00:24:40,390 --> 00:24:38,640
archaeology itself alright so now that

663
00:24:42,470 --> 00:24:40,400

we've laid the foundation

664

00:24:44,830 --> 00:24:42,480

let's talk about the story of human

665

00:24:47,909 --> 00:24:44,840

civilization according to mainstream

666

00:24:50,950 --> 00:24:47,919

academia we think that modern humans may

667

00:24:54,310 --> 00:24:50,960

have first appeared somewhere around 300

668

00:24:56,789 --> 00:24:54,320

000 to 350 000 years ago

669

00:24:59,350 --> 00:24:56,799

i say may have because the truth is that

670

00:25:01,430 --> 00:24:59,360

we are far from certain about where and

671

00:25:02,789 --> 00:25:01,440

when homo sapiens first came on the

672

00:25:05,350 --> 00:25:02,799

scene

673

00:25:07,350 --> 00:25:05,360

up until very recently the earliest

674

00:25:10,950 --> 00:25:07,360

examples of homo sapien bones that we

675

00:25:14,470 --> 00:25:10,960

had discovered were from about 195 000

676
00:25:16,549 --> 00:25:14,480
years ago in modern day ethiopia it was

677
00:25:18,710 --> 00:25:16,559
thought that this was the metaphorical

678
00:25:21,269 --> 00:25:18,720
garden of eden where humans had first

679
00:25:23,029 --> 00:25:21,279
evolved before spreading out into the

680
00:25:24,070 --> 00:25:23,039
rest of the world

681
00:25:27,830 --> 00:25:24,080
however

682
00:25:30,230 --> 00:25:27,840
in 2017 a new discovery was announced at

683
00:25:31,909 --> 00:25:30,240
a site near morocco's coast near the

684
00:25:34,710 --> 00:25:31,919
city of marrakech

685
00:25:39,269 --> 00:25:34,720
bones belonging to modern homo sapiens

686
00:25:41,110 --> 00:25:39,279
were found dating back to 300 000 to 350

687
00:25:43,510 --> 00:25:41,120
000 years ago

688
00:25:46,390 --> 00:25:43,520

not only did this discovery nearly

689

00:25:48,630 --> 00:25:46,400

double the history of the human race

690

00:25:51,430 --> 00:25:48,640

but it calls the idea that humans first

691

00:25:52,950 --> 00:25:51,440

evolved in eastern africa seriously into

692

00:25:55,430 --> 00:25:52,960

question

693

00:25:57,909 --> 00:25:55,440

regardless of when humans first appeared

694

00:26:00,470 --> 00:25:57,919

it is generally agreed that around 70

695

00:26:02,390 --> 00:26:00,480

000 years ago our species underwent a

696

00:26:05,029 --> 00:26:02,400

cognitive revolution

697

00:26:07,590 --> 00:26:05,039

we began to live in larger communities

698

00:26:10,310 --> 00:26:07,600

we engaged in trading with other groups

699

00:26:11,190 --> 00:26:10,320

we developed speech and even creative

700

00:26:13,510 --> 00:26:11,200

art

701
00:26:15,110 --> 00:26:13,520
we're not sure why this happened but

702
00:26:18,310 --> 00:26:15,120
we've been able to identify these

703
00:26:22,390 --> 00:26:18,320
changes in the archaeological record

704
00:26:25,590 --> 00:26:22,400
and then about 12 000 years ago humanity

705
00:26:27,510 --> 00:26:25,600
encountered two important turning points

706
00:26:30,070 --> 00:26:27,520
the first was the end of the younger

707
00:26:32,950 --> 00:26:30,080
dryas which was basically a mini ice age

708
00:26:35,510 --> 00:26:32,960
that lasted for about 1200 years

709
00:26:38,390 --> 00:26:35,520
at the onset of the younger dryas there

710
00:26:41,590 --> 00:26:38,400
was a massive worldwide extinction of

711
00:26:43,590 --> 00:26:41,600
large mammals weighing over 40 kilograms

712
00:26:46,470 --> 00:26:43,600
or about 88 pounds

713
00:26:48,789 --> 00:26:46,480

it is estimated that 82 of these animals

714

00:26:51,510 --> 00:26:48,799

disappeared in north america

715

00:26:52,950 --> 00:26:51,520

74 in south america

716

00:26:54,950 --> 00:26:52,960

71

717

00:26:59,909 --> 00:26:54,960

in australasia

718

00:27:01,909 --> 00:26:59,919

59 in europe 52 in asia and 16 in

719

00:27:04,149 --> 00:27:01,919

sub-saharan africa

720

00:27:06,310 --> 00:27:04,159

this mass extinction event marked the

721

00:27:09,029 --> 00:27:06,320

demise of the mammoths as well as the

722

00:27:11,669 --> 00:27:09,039

disappearance of horses in north america

723

00:27:14,230 --> 00:27:11,679

and other species including bison deer

724

00:27:15,750 --> 00:27:14,240

and moose suffered massive population

725

00:27:17,350 --> 00:27:15,760

losses

726

00:27:19,909 --> 00:27:17,360

fossil evidence suggests the

727

00:27:22,230 --> 00:27:19,919

disappearances were very sudden and so

728

00:27:24,230 --> 00:27:22,240

whatever caused the sudden die off

729

00:27:27,029 --> 00:27:24,240

inevitably made things mighty

730

00:27:28,950 --> 00:27:27,039

uncomfortable for our ancestors as well

731

00:27:30,549 --> 00:27:28,960

particularly in the northern hemisphere

732

00:27:31,909 --> 00:27:30,559

where the impact appears to have been

733

00:27:33,029 --> 00:27:31,919

the highest

734

00:27:35,590 --> 00:27:33,039

however

735

00:27:37,350 --> 00:27:35,600

despite whatever hardships they endured

736

00:27:39,510 --> 00:27:37,360

humans emerged from the end of the

737

00:27:41,750 --> 00:27:39,520

younger dryas having managed to not

738

00:27:42,870 --> 00:27:41,760

suffer the same fate of most other large

739

00:27:45,190 --> 00:27:42,880

mammals

740

00:27:47,350 --> 00:27:45,200

and it was at this point that humanity

741

00:27:50,549 --> 00:27:47,360

reached another turning point the

742

00:27:52,549 --> 00:27:50,559

development of agriculture

743

00:27:54,870 --> 00:27:52,559

this transition to an agricultural

744

00:27:56,070 --> 00:27:54,880

society is known as the neolithic

745

00:27:58,149 --> 00:27:56,080

revolution

746

00:27:59,909 --> 00:27:58,159

a name that was coined by our old friend

747

00:28:02,230 --> 00:27:59,919

v gordon child

748

00:28:05,350 --> 00:28:02,240

according to mainstream archaeology the

749

00:28:07,750 --> 00:28:05,360

neolithic revolution began around 12 000

750

00:28:09,830 --> 00:28:07,760

years ago in the fertile crescent also

751
00:28:11,909 --> 00:28:09,840
known as mesopotamia surrounding the

752
00:28:14,470 --> 00:28:11,919
tigris and euphrates rivers in what is

753
00:28:16,549 --> 00:28:14,480
now modern-day iraq

754
00:28:18,870 --> 00:28:16,559
the neolithic revolution marked the

755
00:28:21,430 --> 00:28:18,880
transition in human history from small

756
00:28:23,830 --> 00:28:21,440
nomadic bands of hunter-gatherers to

757
00:28:25,510 --> 00:28:23,840
larger agricultural settlements and

758
00:28:27,830 --> 00:28:25,520
early civilization

759
00:28:30,310 --> 00:28:27,840
it was a radical and important period of

760
00:28:32,789 --> 00:28:30,320
change in which humans began cultivating

761
00:28:35,430 --> 00:28:32,799
plants breeding animals for food and

762
00:28:37,269 --> 00:28:35,440
forming permanent settlements

763
00:28:39,909 --> 00:28:37,279

this wasn't a transition that happened

764

00:28:41,590 --> 00:28:39,919

overnight and it would take six or seven

765

00:28:44,149 --> 00:28:41,600

thousand more years for these

766

00:28:45,909 --> 00:28:44,159

agricultural societies to reach a level

767

00:28:48,710 --> 00:28:45,919

of complexity that would trigger the

768

00:28:50,310 --> 00:28:48,720

next big transition for humans the urban

769

00:28:52,630 --> 00:28:50,320

revolution

770

00:28:54,710 --> 00:28:52,640

the cumulative growth of technology and

771

00:28:57,350 --> 00:28:54,720

the increasing availability of food

772

00:28:59,430 --> 00:28:57,360

surpluses allowed people to begin to

773

00:29:01,909 --> 00:28:59,440

live together in larger groups with a

774

00:29:03,909 --> 00:29:01,919

more complex social structure

775

00:29:05,750 --> 00:29:03,919

specialists emerged allowing for

776

00:29:07,029 --> 00:29:05,760

significant advances in the arts and

777

00:29:09,269 --> 00:29:07,039

sciences

778

00:29:10,950 --> 00:29:09,279

surpluses were traded for other capital

779

00:29:12,870 --> 00:29:10,960

to fund public works

780

00:29:14,070 --> 00:29:12,880

the first examples of written language

781

00:29:17,669 --> 00:29:14,080

emerged

782

00:29:19,750 --> 00:29:17,679

and just like that you have civilization

783

00:29:21,990 --> 00:29:19,760

and almost immediately these

784

00:29:24,070 --> 00:29:22,000

civilizations advance to the level that

785

00:29:25,590 --> 00:29:24,080

they could begin to undertake megalithic

786

00:29:27,830 --> 00:29:25,600

building projects

787

00:29:29,110 --> 00:29:27,840

which if you ask me sounds a little

788

00:29:31,029 --> 00:29:29,120

fishy

789

00:29:33,430 --> 00:29:31,039

but that's more or less the story of

790

00:29:35,190 --> 00:29:33,440

human civilization as told by mainstream

791

00:29:36,230 --> 00:29:35,200

archaeology today

792

00:29:37,909 --> 00:29:36,240

however

793

00:29:39,990 --> 00:29:37,919

over the past few decades there have

794

00:29:42,710 --> 00:29:40,000

been more and more discoveries that seem

795

00:29:44,630 --> 00:29:42,720

to not just contradict this narrative

796

00:29:46,470 --> 00:29:44,640

but suggest that we may need to go back

797

00:29:47,909 --> 00:29:46,480

to the drawing board and rethink the

798

00:29:50,470 --> 00:29:47,919

timeline of the emergence of

799

00:29:53,110 --> 00:29:50,480

civilization entirely

800

00:29:55,350 --> 00:29:53,120

yet strikingly these discoveries have

801
00:29:57,830 --> 00:29:55,360
done little to dislodge this narrative

802
00:29:59,990 --> 00:29:57,840
among most academics

803
00:30:02,230 --> 00:30:00,000
and no archaeological site better

804
00:30:04,230 --> 00:30:02,240
exemplifies the level of dissonance

805
00:30:07,110 --> 00:30:04,240
between the accepted narrative and what

806
00:30:09,269 --> 00:30:07,120
the evidence actually seems to suggest

807
00:30:11,110 --> 00:30:09,279
think of beckley teppy

808
00:30:13,510 --> 00:30:11,120
i want to start with gobekli tepe

809
00:30:16,070 --> 00:30:13,520
because this is the archaeological site

810
00:30:18,310 --> 00:30:16,080
that blows up our established narrative

811
00:30:19,750 --> 00:30:18,320
it is proof that our timeline and

812
00:30:22,950 --> 00:30:19,760
assumptions about early human

813
00:30:25,110 --> 00:30:22,960

civilization are wrong and it poses new

814

00:30:26,789 --> 00:30:25,120

questions about our origins that are not

815

00:30:29,190 --> 00:30:26,799

easily answered

816

00:30:31,990 --> 00:30:29,200

in southeastern turkey just north of the

817

00:30:34,149 --> 00:30:32,000

syrian border atop a low mountain sits

818

00:30:36,470 --> 00:30:34,159

gobekli tepe

819

00:30:39,110 --> 00:30:36,480

discovered in 1994 by german

820

00:30:42,070 --> 00:30:39,120

archaeologist klaus schmidt

821

00:30:44,070 --> 00:30:42,080

with excavation beginning in 1995

822

00:30:46,230 --> 00:30:44,080

this remarkable site challenges

823

00:30:49,190 --> 00:30:46,240

everything we believe to be true about

824

00:30:51,750 --> 00:30:49,200

the emergence of human civilization

825

00:30:54,389 --> 00:30:51,760

the site comprises a number of large

826
00:30:56,950 --> 00:30:54,399
circular structures supported by massive

827
00:30:59,509 --> 00:30:56,960
t-shaped stone pillars which are the

828
00:31:02,230 --> 00:30:59,519
world's oldest known megaliths and are

829
00:31:05,110 --> 00:31:02,240
estimated to weigh as much as 20 to 50

830
00:31:07,110 --> 00:31:05,120
tons each many of these limestone

831
00:31:09,990 --> 00:31:07,120
pillars are richly decorated with

832
00:31:13,190 --> 00:31:10,000
abstract anthropomorphic details

833
00:31:15,509 --> 00:31:13,200
clothing and reliefs of wild animals

834
00:31:18,789 --> 00:31:15,519
there are many remarkable things about

835
00:31:20,710 --> 00:31:18,799
gobekli tepe it's complex geometry it's

836
00:31:22,549 --> 00:31:20,720
intricate stone carvings and it's

837
00:31:23,590 --> 00:31:22,559
towering megaliths

838
00:31:25,590 --> 00:31:23,600

however

839

00:31:28,470 --> 00:31:25,600

the most remarkable thing about this

840

00:31:30,870 --> 00:31:28,480

incredible site is its age

841

00:31:32,789 --> 00:31:30,880

using multiple dating methods it is

842

00:31:37,350 --> 00:31:32,799

believed that the earliest parts of

843

00:31:41,029 --> 00:31:37,360

gobekli tepe were built around 9600 bc

844

00:31:42,149 --> 00:31:41,039

or nearly 12 000 years ago

845

00:31:44,149 --> 00:31:42,159

and yes

846

00:31:46,950 --> 00:31:44,159

this is the date that is accepted by

847

00:31:50,070 --> 00:31:46,960

mainstream archaeologists the reason

848

00:31:52,149 --> 00:31:50,080

that gobekli tepe is so well preserved

849

00:31:55,110 --> 00:31:52,159

and why we're so confident about its

850

00:31:58,149 --> 00:31:55,120

astounding age is that for reasons that

851
00:32:01,590 --> 00:31:58,159
remain a mystery the entire complex was

852
00:32:02,710 --> 00:32:01,600
meticulously buried sometime around 8000

853
00:32:04,470 --> 00:32:02,720
bc

854
00:32:07,669 --> 00:32:04,480
and remained that way until its

855
00:32:10,549 --> 00:32:07,679
discovery in the late 20th century

856
00:32:12,310 --> 00:32:10,559
it's hard to know what if anything would

857
00:32:14,549 --> 00:32:12,320
have remained of this site if it hadn't

858
00:32:17,669 --> 00:32:14,559
been preserved in this way

859
00:32:20,950 --> 00:32:17,679
emphasizing how rare and how important

860
00:32:24,149 --> 00:32:20,960
this glimpse into our past really is

861
00:32:27,430 --> 00:32:24,159
so what can we learn from gobekli tepe

862
00:32:29,669 --> 00:32:27,440
well first of all we now know that at

863
00:32:31,590 --> 00:32:29,679

least in what is modern day turkey

864

00:32:34,070 --> 00:32:31,600

humans were building megalithic

865

00:32:37,430 --> 00:32:34,080

structures at the end of the last ice

866

00:32:39,350 --> 00:32:37,440

age which is a full 5 000 years before

867

00:32:40,710 --> 00:32:39,360

the first megaliths were believed to

868

00:32:42,789 --> 00:32:40,720

have been built

869

00:32:44,710 --> 00:32:42,799

to put that into perspective

870

00:32:46,389 --> 00:32:44,720

the length of time between when the

871

00:32:48,070 --> 00:32:46,399

first megalithic structures were

872

00:32:50,870 --> 00:32:48,080

believed to have been built and when

873

00:32:52,870 --> 00:32:50,880

gobekli tepe was actually built

874

00:32:55,110 --> 00:32:52,880

is roughly the same period of time

875

00:32:57,509 --> 00:32:55,120

between our present day and the early

876

00:32:59,509 --> 00:32:57,519

dynastic period in egypt

877

00:33:01,590 --> 00:32:59,519

hundreds of years before the pyramids

878

00:33:05,190 --> 00:33:01,600

were believed to have been built

879

00:33:07,509 --> 00:33:05,200

this is stunning for a number of reasons

880

00:33:10,070 --> 00:33:07,519

the first and most obvious is that it

881

00:33:11,909 --> 00:33:10,080

completely obliterates our previous

882

00:33:13,669 --> 00:33:11,919

timeline of the emergence of human

883

00:33:15,830 --> 00:33:13,679

civilization

884

00:33:17,990 --> 00:33:15,840

according to the existing narrative

885

00:33:20,149 --> 00:33:18,000

twelve thousand years ago humans were

886

00:33:21,590 --> 00:33:20,159

just beginning to experiment with

887

00:33:23,430 --> 00:33:21,600

agriculture

888

00:33:25,750 --> 00:33:23,440

they still lived in small groups and

889

00:33:28,230 --> 00:33:25,760

were primarily hunter-gatherers

890

00:33:30,470 --> 00:33:28,240

however carving and raising giant

891

00:33:33,590 --> 00:33:30,480

megaliths like the ones found at gobekli

892

00:33:36,230 --> 00:33:33,600

tepe implies a level of sophistication

893

00:33:39,110 --> 00:33:36,240

that blows the story out of the water

894

00:33:41,830 --> 00:33:39,120

to build something like that takes time

895

00:33:43,669 --> 00:33:41,840

planning and enormous resources

896

00:33:45,669 --> 00:33:43,679

how could that be accomplished by small

897

00:33:47,830 --> 00:33:45,679

groups of hunter-gatherers who would by

898

00:33:49,590 --> 00:33:47,840

necessity need to exert most of their

899

00:33:51,830 --> 00:33:49,600

energy to get food

900

00:33:53,909 --> 00:33:51,840

to be fair we actually don't know if the

901
00:33:55,990 --> 00:33:53,919
builders of gobekli tepe were truly

902
00:33:57,750 --> 00:33:56,000
nomadic hunter-gatherers

903
00:33:59,590 --> 00:33:57,760
it's been speculated that there could

904
00:34:01,750 --> 00:33:59,600
have been a permanent settlement near

905
00:34:03,350 --> 00:34:01,760
the site though no evidence of that has

906
00:34:05,350 --> 00:34:03,360
ever been found

907
00:34:07,110 --> 00:34:05,360
it could be that their homes were far

908
00:34:09,270 --> 00:34:07,120
less elaborate and made of largely

909
00:34:11,190 --> 00:34:09,280
organic materials in which case it's

910
00:34:12,869 --> 00:34:11,200
unlikely that any real evidence of their

911
00:34:15,190 --> 00:34:12,879
existence remains

912
00:34:17,030 --> 00:34:15,200
or it's also been speculated that the

913
00:34:20,149 --> 00:34:17,040

settlement could have once stood where

914

00:34:21,990 --> 00:34:20,159

the nearby city of urfa is now which

915

00:34:24,069 --> 00:34:22,000

also would make it unlikely that we'd

916

00:34:26,550 --> 00:34:24,079

ever find traces of it

917

00:34:28,470 --> 00:34:26,560

however it's also possible that there

918

00:34:29,990 --> 00:34:28,480

wasn't a permanent settlement at gobekli

919

00:34:32,389 --> 00:34:30,000

tepe at all

920

00:34:34,470 --> 00:34:32,399

perhaps gobekli tepe was a gathering

921

00:34:36,310 --> 00:34:34,480

place for various groups and tribes to

922

00:34:38,230 --> 00:34:36,320

come together for trading or religious

923

00:34:40,629 --> 00:34:38,240

celebrations

924

00:34:42,310 --> 00:34:40,639

if that's the case it only further

925

00:34:45,030 --> 00:34:42,320

muddies the waters of the established

926
00:34:47,349 --> 00:34:45,040
narrative because the level of knowledge

927
00:34:49,829 --> 00:34:47,359
and scale of cooperation necessary to

928
00:34:51,270 --> 00:34:49,839
take on megalithic building projects

929
00:34:54,629 --> 00:34:51,280
wasn't supposed to have been developed

930
00:34:56,310 --> 00:34:54,639
until 5 000 years later and even then it

931
00:34:59,109 --> 00:34:56,320
was only supposed to have been possible

932
00:35:00,470 --> 00:34:59,119
within the context of a civilized urban

933
00:35:02,390 --> 00:35:00,480
environment

934
00:35:04,310 --> 00:35:02,400
honestly either possibility is

935
00:35:07,430 --> 00:35:04,320
mind-blowing

936
00:35:08,390 --> 00:35:07,440
another major revelation of gobekli tepe

937
00:35:10,390 --> 00:35:08,400
is that

938
00:35:11,910 --> 00:35:10,400

it may contain evidence of written

939

00:35:13,270 --> 00:35:11,920

language

940

00:35:15,109 --> 00:35:13,280

for example

941

00:35:17,990 --> 00:35:15,119

carved into one of the largest

942

00:35:19,829 --> 00:35:18,000

megalithic pillars is what looks very

943

00:35:21,910 --> 00:35:19,839

much like letters

944

00:35:24,069 --> 00:35:21,920

specifically it looks like a capital c

945

00:35:26,069 --> 00:35:24,079

followed by a capital h followed by a

946

00:35:28,550 --> 00:35:26,079

backwards capital c

947

00:35:30,390 --> 00:35:28,560

now obviously these aren't literally cs

948

00:35:31,430 --> 00:35:30,400

and h's

949

00:35:33,589 --> 00:35:31,440

however

950

00:35:36,150 --> 00:35:33,599

comparisons have been made between these

951
00:35:39,750 --> 00:35:36,160
markings and anatolian hieroglyphs that

952
00:35:42,710 --> 00:35:39,760
were used in the same area albeit 8 000

953
00:35:45,670 --> 00:35:42,720
years later in the second millennia bc

954
00:35:47,670 --> 00:35:45,680
and the similarities are striking

955
00:35:49,990 --> 00:35:47,680
could it really be possible that written

956
00:35:52,310 --> 00:35:50,000
language developed thousands of years

957
00:35:54,390 --> 00:35:52,320
earlier than we previously thought

958
00:35:56,790 --> 00:35:54,400
and could the written language used by

959
00:35:59,349 --> 00:35:56,800
the people who built quebecois tepe have

960
00:36:01,270 --> 00:35:59,359
eventually been the basis for anatolian

961
00:36:03,510 --> 00:36:01,280
hieroglyphics

962
00:36:05,030 --> 00:36:03,520
frustratingly the answer is that we

963
00:36:06,950 --> 00:36:05,040

simply don't know

964

00:36:09,190 --> 00:36:06,960

as compelling as the evidence is for

965

00:36:11,430 --> 00:36:09,200

written language at gobekli tepe

966

00:36:12,790 --> 00:36:11,440

there's not enough to draw any definite

967

00:36:15,190 --> 00:36:12,800

conclusions

968

00:36:17,109 --> 00:36:15,200

which only further emphasizes the point

969

00:36:19,750 --> 00:36:17,119

that identifying written language in our

970

00:36:21,990 --> 00:36:19,760

distant past is far more complicated

971

00:36:24,310 --> 00:36:22,000

than we might initially assume

972

00:36:26,390 --> 00:36:24,320

the characters could be written language

973

00:36:28,550 --> 00:36:26,400

or it could be decoration

974

00:36:30,630 --> 00:36:28,560

without context how can you even make

975

00:36:32,870 --> 00:36:30,640

that discernment

976
00:36:35,190 --> 00:36:32,880
and whether or not these markings are

977
00:36:37,190 --> 00:36:35,200
written language we're still left with a

978
00:36:39,829 --> 00:36:37,200
conundrum

979
00:36:41,750 --> 00:36:39,839
if it is written language then we have

980
00:36:44,790 --> 00:36:41,760
to push back the advent of a written

981
00:36:47,190 --> 00:36:44,800
word by at least seven thousand years

982
00:36:48,790 --> 00:36:47,200
and if it isn't written language

983
00:36:51,270 --> 00:36:48,800
then we have to grapple with the fact

984
00:36:52,950 --> 00:36:51,280
that the builders of gobekli tepe

985
00:36:55,510 --> 00:36:52,960
somehow reached a level of social

986
00:36:57,670 --> 00:36:55,520
complexity to produce such a massive and

987
00:36:59,670 --> 00:36:57,680
mathematically precise megalithic

988
00:37:01,510 --> 00:36:59,680

construction without it

989

00:37:03,190 --> 00:37:01,520

meaning that written language is no

990

00:37:05,430 --> 00:37:03,200

longer a viable benchmark for the

991

00:37:07,910 --> 00:37:05,440

emergence of civilization

992

00:37:10,069 --> 00:37:07,920

either way the accepted paradigm is

993

00:37:11,589 --> 00:37:10,079

shattered beyond repair

994

00:37:14,230 --> 00:37:11,599

and there's another tantalizing

995

00:37:15,190 --> 00:37:14,240

possibility posed by gobekli tepe which

996

00:37:17,829 --> 00:37:15,200

is that

997

00:37:19,589 --> 00:37:17,839

the development of agriculture may not

998

00:37:21,670 --> 00:37:19,599

have been the driving force behind the

999

00:37:23,510 --> 00:37:21,680

neolithic revolution

1000

00:37:26,069 --> 00:37:23,520

because here's the thing

1001

00:37:28,390 --> 00:37:26,079

the agricultural revolution is dated to

1002

00:37:30,470 --> 00:37:28,400

about 10 000 bc

1003

00:37:32,950 --> 00:37:30,480

but making the shift to fully

1004

00:37:35,430 --> 00:37:32,960

agricultural societies took thousands of

1005

00:37:37,910 --> 00:37:35,440

years it didn't happen overnight

1006

00:37:39,750 --> 00:37:37,920

written language complex society and

1007

00:37:42,550 --> 00:37:39,760

advanced human knowledge

1008

00:37:44,390 --> 00:37:42,560

may have developed long before cities

1009

00:37:46,550 --> 00:37:44,400

and there may have been other driving

1010

00:37:48,870 --> 00:37:46,560

forces besides the agricultural

1011

00:37:51,030 --> 00:37:48,880

revolution that caused people to abandon

1012

00:37:53,430 --> 00:37:51,040

their hunter-gatherer lifestyle for

1013

00:37:55,589 --> 00:37:53,440

larger and more permanent settlements

1014

00:37:57,750 --> 00:37:55,599

and the emergence of agriculture could

1015

00:38:00,069 --> 00:37:57,760

have been a result of this transition as

1016

00:38:02,870 --> 00:38:00,079

opposed to the cause of it

1017

00:38:05,270 --> 00:38:02,880

whatever the case gobekli tepe stands

1018

00:38:08,470 --> 00:38:05,280

apart as the single most significant

1019

00:38:10,950 --> 00:38:08,480

archaeological find in human history

1020

00:38:13,430 --> 00:38:10,960

and its mysteries challenge virtually

1021

00:38:14,880 --> 00:38:13,440

every belief that we have about the dawn

1022

00:40:00,150 --> 00:38:14,890

of human civilization

1023

00:40:05,109 --> 00:40:02,390

in light of the revelations of gobekli

1024

00:40:07,349 --> 00:40:05,119

tepe it seems reasonable that we would

1025

00:40:09,430 --> 00:40:07,359

go back and re-examine other ancient

1026

00:40:10,790 --> 00:40:09,440

sites within the context of this new

1027

00:40:11,829 --> 00:40:10,800

information

1028

00:40:14,390 --> 00:40:11,839

however

1029

00:40:17,670 --> 00:40:14,400

despite the fact that excavations began

1030

00:40:20,069 --> 00:40:17,680

at gobekli tepe almost three decades ago

1031

00:40:22,230 --> 00:40:20,079

within most archaeological circles the

1032

00:40:24,390 --> 00:40:22,240

idea that megalithic structures may be

1033

00:40:26,150 --> 00:40:24,400

older than we thought or at the very

1034

00:40:28,950 --> 00:40:26,160

least that they could have been built on

1035

00:40:31,910 --> 00:40:28,960

the foundations of much older sites

1036

00:40:33,910 --> 00:40:31,920

remains entirely taboo

1037

00:40:36,390 --> 00:40:33,920

one of the most well-known examples of

1038

00:40:38,870 --> 00:40:36,400

this involves what is perhaps the dopest

1039

00:40:40,870 --> 00:40:38,880

of all ancient megalithic structures

1040

00:40:43,910 --> 00:40:40,880

the great sphinx

1041

00:40:46,630 --> 00:40:43,920

in october 1991 at an annual meeting of

1042

00:40:48,630 --> 00:40:46,640

the geological society of america

1043

00:40:50,550 --> 00:40:48,640

robert shock first presented his

1044

00:40:54,150 --> 00:40:50,560

evidence that the origins of the great

1045

00:40:57,589 --> 00:40:54,160

sphinx must date back to at least 7000

1046

00:40:59,829 --> 00:40:57,599

to 5000 bc if not earlier which is

1047

00:41:03,430 --> 00:40:59,839

thousands of years before the popularly

1048

00:41:05,670 --> 00:41:03,440

accepted date of 2500 bc

1049

00:41:07,589 --> 00:41:05,680

and in recent years he's pushed back

1050

00:41:08,710 --> 00:41:07,599

what he believes to be the true age of

1051
00:41:12,309 --> 00:41:08,720
the sphinx

1052
00:41:14,309 --> 00:41:12,319
to at least 12 000 years ago

1053
00:41:16,790 --> 00:41:14,319
shock's theory has been largely

1054
00:41:19,109 --> 00:41:16,800
criticized and dismissed by mainstream

1055
00:41:20,870 --> 00:41:19,119
archaeologists and geologists

1056
00:41:23,190 --> 00:41:20,880
and his work has been slapped with the

1057
00:41:25,030 --> 00:41:23,200
label of pseudoscience

1058
00:41:27,829 --> 00:41:25,040
and as we talked about in the last

1059
00:41:30,309 --> 00:41:27,839
episode we may not be archaeologists or

1060
00:41:32,390 --> 00:41:30,319
geologists but we do have a fairly

1061
00:41:34,630 --> 00:41:32,400
simple framework for determining whether

1062
00:41:36,390 --> 00:41:34,640
or not something is being fairly labeled

1063
00:41:37,990 --> 00:41:36,400

as pseudoscience

1064

00:41:39,990 --> 00:41:38,000

all we need to do is look at the

1065

00:41:41,910 --> 00:41:40,000

arguments for why something is being

1066

00:41:43,910 --> 00:41:41,920

called pseudoscience

1067

00:41:46,230 --> 00:41:43,920

if the argument is that the methodology

1068

00:41:47,829 --> 00:41:46,240

used to collect the data wasn't sound or

1069

00:41:51,030 --> 00:41:47,839

that the data was interpreted

1070

00:41:52,550 --> 00:41:51,040

incorrectly then they might have a point

1071

00:41:54,309 --> 00:41:52,560

and we'd need to dig deeper to

1072

00:41:55,910 --> 00:41:54,319

understand whether or not it was

1073

00:41:56,950 --> 00:41:55,920

pseudoscience

1074

00:41:58,870 --> 00:41:56,960

however

1075

00:42:00,870 --> 00:41:58,880

if the argument is simply that it's

1076

00:42:03,190 --> 00:42:00,880

pseudoscience because the conclusions

1077

00:42:05,109 --> 00:42:03,200

don't align with the current narrative

1078

00:42:06,790 --> 00:42:05,119

then we have a pretty clear case of

1079

00:42:08,710 --> 00:42:06,800

academic bias

1080

00:42:11,430 --> 00:42:08,720

this doesn't mean that these conclusions

1081

00:42:13,910 --> 00:42:11,440

are necessarily correct it only means

1082

00:42:16,950 --> 00:42:13,920

that the label of pseudoscience at least

1083

00:42:20,150 --> 00:42:16,960

as it's being argued isn't fair

1084

00:42:22,630 --> 00:42:20,160

so let's look at the evidence

1085

00:42:24,790 --> 00:42:22,640

mainstream egyptologists contend that

1086

00:42:26,950 --> 00:42:24,800

the sphinx was built in approximately

1087

00:42:28,950 --> 00:42:26,960

2500 bc

1088

00:42:30,870 --> 00:42:28,960

the reasoning for this basically boils

1089

00:42:32,790 --> 00:42:30,880

down to the fact that it is surrounded

1090

00:42:35,190 --> 00:42:32,800

by other structures that they have also

1091

00:42:37,270 --> 00:42:35,200

dated to the same time period

1092

00:42:39,670 --> 00:42:37,280

the great sphinx is situated on the

1093

00:42:43,589 --> 00:42:39,680

eastern edge of the giza plateau on the

1094

00:42:45,910 --> 00:42:43,599

west bank of the Nile across from Cairo

1095

00:42:48,309 --> 00:42:45,920

also located on this plateau is the

1096

00:42:50,630 --> 00:42:48,319

great pyramid attributed to the fourth

1097

00:42:53,109 --> 00:42:50,640

dynasty pharaoh Khufu

1098

00:42:56,150 --> 00:42:53,119

the second pyramid generally attributed

1099

00:42:58,390 --> 00:42:56,160

to the pharaoh Khafre who is possibly the

1100

00:43:00,790 --> 00:42:58,400

son or brother of Khufu

1101
00:43:03,270 --> 00:43:00,800
and the third and smallest pyramid which

1102
00:43:07,030 --> 00:43:03,280
is attributed to the pharaoh menkora who

1103
00:43:07,990 --> 00:43:07,040
is possibly the son or grandson of khufu

1104
00:43:10,069 --> 00:43:08,000
so

1105
00:43:12,150 --> 00:43:10,079
based on this traditional thinking all

1106
00:43:15,750 --> 00:43:12,160
of the pyramids are dated to around the

1107
00:43:17,670 --> 00:43:15,760
same time period around 2500 bc

1108
00:43:19,030 --> 00:43:17,680
during and immediately after the reign

1109
00:43:21,589 --> 00:43:19,040
of khufu

1110
00:43:24,069 --> 00:43:21,599
and they argue the great sphinx is

1111
00:43:26,230 --> 00:43:24,079
associated with these structures

1112
00:43:27,430 --> 00:43:26,240
so it must be around that same age as

1113
00:43:29,510 --> 00:43:27,440

well

1114

00:43:31,349 --> 00:43:29,520

now i don't know about you but that

1115

00:43:34,309 --> 00:43:31,359

doesn't strike me as the strongest

1116

00:43:35,430 --> 00:43:34,319

argument i mean sure they're close to

1117

00:43:37,589 --> 00:43:35,440

each other

1118

00:43:39,829 --> 00:43:37,599

but if you went to rome right now you'd

1119

00:43:42,630 --> 00:43:39,839

find an assemblage of architectural

1120

00:43:45,349 --> 00:43:42,640

marvels whose origins span hundreds if

1121

00:43:47,190 --> 00:43:45,359

not thousands of years and we'd be wrong

1122

00:43:48,870 --> 00:43:47,200

in assuming that just because they are

1123

00:43:50,470 --> 00:43:48,880

close to each other that they are the

1124

00:43:53,349 --> 00:43:50,480

same age

1125

00:43:55,750 --> 00:43:53,359

i'd argue that in any city like egypt or

1126

00:43:57,589 --> 00:43:55,760

rome that has been continually occupied

1127

00:44:00,150 --> 00:43:57,599

for thousands of years

1128

00:44:02,550 --> 00:44:00,160

that proximity simply isn't a viable

1129

00:44:04,630 --> 00:44:02,560

method for dating structures

1130

00:44:07,349 --> 00:44:04,640

it's also worth noting that the dating

1131

00:44:09,510 --> 00:44:07,359

of the pyramids themselves has at times

1132

00:44:11,670 --> 00:44:09,520

been called into question

1133

00:44:13,589 --> 00:44:11,680

you probably already know that the three

1134

00:44:15,910 --> 00:44:13,599

pyramids on the giza plateau are

1135

00:44:18,710 --> 00:44:15,920

positioned in such a way as to correlate

1136

00:44:21,750 --> 00:44:18,720

to orion's belt within the constellation

1137

00:44:23,589 --> 00:44:21,760

of orion however what's interesting is

1138

00:44:25,990 --> 00:44:23,599

that although their size and relative

1139

00:44:27,589 --> 00:44:26,000

position are the same as the three stars

1140

00:44:29,670 --> 00:44:27,599

of orion's belt

1141

00:44:33,829 --> 00:44:29,680

they don't align with the position of

1142

00:44:36,150 --> 00:44:33,839

orion's belt in the sky in 2500 bc

1143

00:44:38,390 --> 00:44:36,160

this might seem like a minor detail

1144

00:44:40,630 --> 00:44:38,400

except that we know that the builders of

1145

00:44:43,109 --> 00:44:40,640

the pyramids like virtually all

1146

00:44:45,750 --> 00:44:43,119

megalithic builders had an incredibly

1147

00:44:47,910 --> 00:44:45,760

advanced and detailed understanding of

1148

00:44:50,390 --> 00:44:47,920

the movement of the stars and our place

1149

00:44:52,870 --> 00:44:50,400

within the cosmos and the placement and

1150

00:44:56,069 --> 00:44:52,880

orientation of these sites are almost

1151
00:44:59,430 --> 00:44:56,079
always aligned to important astrological

1152
00:45:02,230 --> 00:44:59,440
alignments like the equinoxes

1153
00:45:04,069 --> 00:45:02,240
in fact the pyramids themselves are

1154
00:45:06,390 --> 00:45:04,079
perfectly aligned with the cardinal

1155
00:45:08,470 --> 00:45:06,400
directions with the precision that

1156
00:45:10,230 --> 00:45:08,480
humans wouldn't achieve again until the

1157
00:45:12,309 --> 00:45:10,240
18th century

1158
00:45:14,950 --> 00:45:12,319
so it's a little weird that they would

1159
00:45:17,270 --> 00:45:14,960
be so precise in one respect but so

1160
00:45:19,349 --> 00:45:17,280
imprecise in another

1161
00:45:21,910 --> 00:45:19,359
which is why it's been suggested that

1162
00:45:23,270 --> 00:45:21,920
perhaps the pyramids date back to a time

1163
00:45:25,510 --> 00:45:23,280

when the pyramids would have been

1164

00:45:27,670 --> 00:45:25,520

aligned with orion's belt

1165

00:45:31,270 --> 00:45:27,680

the only problem is that the last time

1166

00:45:32,390 --> 00:45:31,280

that happened was 12 000 to 14 000 years

1167

00:45:34,630 --> 00:45:32,400

ago

1168

00:45:37,030 --> 00:45:34,640

now granted it's unlikely that the

1169

00:45:39,190 --> 00:45:37,040

pyramids as they now stand were built

1170

00:45:40,870 --> 00:45:39,200

that long ago because they would be much

1171

00:45:42,069 --> 00:45:40,880

more heavily eroded

1172

00:45:44,630 --> 00:45:42,079

however

1173

00:45:46,710 --> 00:45:44,640

they could potentially be built on older

1174

00:45:47,670 --> 00:45:46,720

sites that originated from that time

1175

00:45:49,990 --> 00:45:47,680

period

1176

00:45:51,829 --> 00:45:50,000

or they could be memorializing that time

1177

00:45:53,109 --> 00:45:51,839

period for reasons that we don't yet

1178

00:45:55,910 --> 00:45:53,119

understand

1179

00:45:58,390 --> 00:45:55,920

either way it's interesting

1180

00:46:00,630 --> 00:45:58,400

and speaking of erosion it was exactly

1181

00:46:03,510 --> 00:46:00,640

that which caused robert shock to call

1182

00:46:05,910 --> 00:46:03,520

the age of the sphinx into question

1183

00:46:07,829 --> 00:46:05,920

shock's work is based on the startling

1184

00:46:09,670 --> 00:46:07,839

realization that the considerable

1185

00:46:10,790 --> 00:46:09,680

weathering shown on the oldest parts of

1186

00:46:12,950 --> 00:46:10,800

the sphinx

1187

00:46:16,309 --> 00:46:12,960

show evidence of significant water

1188

00:46:18,470 --> 00:46:16,319

erosion however you'd have to go back in

1189

00:46:21,109 --> 00:46:18,480

time thousands of years before the

1190

00:46:23,270 --> 00:46:21,119

sphinx was allegedly built to find a

1191

00:46:24,790 --> 00:46:23,280

time when there was abundant rainfall in

1192

00:46:26,550 --> 00:46:24,800

the region

1193

00:46:28,550 --> 00:46:26,560

shock says that he reached his

1194

00:46:30,069 --> 00:46:28,560

conclusions through a variety of

1195

00:46:32,390 --> 00:46:30,079

independent means

1196

00:46:34,309 --> 00:46:32,400

such as correlating the nature of the

1197

00:46:35,430 --> 00:46:34,319

weathering with the climatic history of

1198

00:46:37,510 --> 00:46:35,440

the area

1199

00:46:39,910 --> 00:46:37,520

calculating the amount of rock eroded

1200

00:46:41,589 --> 00:46:39,920

away on the surface and estimating how

1201
00:46:44,390 --> 00:46:41,599
long this may have taken

1202
00:46:47,750 --> 00:46:44,400
and calibrating the depth of subsurface

1203
00:46:50,390 --> 00:46:47,760
weathering around and below the sphinx

1204
00:46:52,550 --> 00:46:50,400
some archaeologists and egyptologists

1205
00:46:54,470 --> 00:46:52,560
will concede that there is water

1206
00:46:55,510 --> 00:46:54,480
weathering on the sphinx

1207
00:46:57,829 --> 00:46:55,520
however

1208
00:47:00,470 --> 00:46:57,839
they argue that heavy rains must have

1209
00:47:02,069 --> 00:47:00,480
continued into the third century bc to

1210
00:47:04,230 --> 00:47:02,079
account for this

1211
00:47:06,950 --> 00:47:04,240
shock counters this argument by pointing

1212
00:47:09,589 --> 00:47:06,960
out that there are mud brick tombs built

1213
00:47:12,390 --> 00:47:09,599

on the saqqara plateau only about a

1214

00:47:15,430 --> 00:47:12,400

dozen kilometers south of giza that are

1215

00:47:17,430 --> 00:47:15,440

definitively and indisputably dated to

1216

00:47:20,069 --> 00:47:17,440

2800 bc

1217

00:47:21,910 --> 00:47:20,079

or 300 years before the sphinx was

1218

00:47:23,990 --> 00:47:21,920

allegedly carved

1219

00:47:26,150 --> 00:47:24,000

if there had been torrential rain

1220

00:47:28,549 --> 00:47:26,160

capable of creating the deep weathering

1221

00:47:30,870 --> 00:47:28,559

on the sphinx in the area up through

1222

00:47:32,710 --> 00:47:30,880

that time period and beyond

1223

00:47:34,230 --> 00:47:32,720

those bricks could not have possibly

1224

00:47:36,390 --> 00:47:34,240

survived

1225

00:47:39,670 --> 00:47:36,400

there's also the question of whether or

1226

00:47:41,990 --> 00:47:39,680

not the head of the sphinx was recarved

1227

00:47:43,589 --> 00:47:42,000

something that mainstream archaeologists

1228

00:47:44,390 --> 00:47:43,599

vehemently deny

1229

00:47:46,069 --> 00:47:44,400

but

1230

00:47:48,309 --> 00:47:46,079

i gotta tell you guys

1231

00:47:49,589 --> 00:47:48,319

the first time i heard that theory my

1232

00:47:52,230 --> 00:47:49,599

first thought was

1233

00:47:53,270 --> 00:47:52,240

oh so that's why the sphinx looks like

1234

00:47:55,349 --> 00:47:53,280

that

1235

00:47:57,990 --> 00:47:55,359

the proportions of the sphinx with its

1236

00:47:59,829 --> 00:47:58,000

small head relative to its body always

1237

00:48:02,870 --> 00:47:59,839

struck me as a bit off

1238

00:48:06,069 --> 00:48:02,880

however as soon as i visualized it as a

1239

00:48:07,990 --> 00:48:06,079

recarving of an original larger head the

1240

00:48:09,670 --> 00:48:08,000

whole thing just made sense in a way

1241

00:48:11,510 --> 00:48:09,680

that it didn't before

1242

00:48:13,190 --> 00:48:11,520

that's certainly not definitive proof of

1243

00:48:15,270 --> 00:48:13,200

anything but i mean

1244

00:48:17,990 --> 00:48:15,280

just look at it

1245

00:48:19,829 --> 00:48:18,000

mainstream egyptologists however contend

1246

00:48:21,750 --> 00:48:19,839

that the head of the sphinx is original

1247

00:48:24,230 --> 00:48:21,760

and carved in the image of the pharaoh

1248

00:48:26,470 --> 00:48:24,240

kafra the alleged builder of the second

1249

00:48:27,910 --> 00:48:26,480

pyramid and the maybe son maybe brother

1250

00:48:30,230 --> 00:48:27,920

of khufu

1251
00:48:32,069 --> 00:48:30,240
they argue that the bizarre proportions

1252
00:48:33,829 --> 00:48:32,079
of the sphinx are due to the fact that

1253
00:48:36,230 --> 00:48:33,839
it was carved directly out of the

1254
00:48:38,630 --> 00:48:36,240
limestone bedrock with the head being

1255
00:48:40,710 --> 00:48:38,640
carved first and then the head and that

1256
00:48:41,829 --> 00:48:40,720
they simply misjudged and ran out of

1257
00:48:44,069 --> 00:48:41,839
room

1258
00:48:46,549 --> 00:48:44,079
and here we see this paradox the

1259
00:48:48,390 --> 00:48:46,559
conventional archaeology demands that we

1260
00:48:51,270 --> 00:48:48,400
accept without question

1261
00:48:53,349 --> 00:48:51,280
even as it emerges again and again which

1262
00:48:55,510 --> 00:48:53,359
is that we are to believe that the

1263
00:48:57,589 --> 00:48:55,520

egyptian people were both advanced

1264

00:48:59,750 --> 00:48:57,599

enough to build the pyramids an

1265

00:49:03,030 --> 00:48:59,760

architectural feat that would be a major

1266

00:49:04,950 --> 00:49:03,040

challenge to us even today and aligned

1267

00:49:06,870 --> 00:49:04,960

them to the cardinal directions with a

1268

00:49:10,549 --> 00:49:06,880

precision that humans wouldn't be able

1269

00:49:11,750 --> 00:49:10,559

to achieve again for another 4 000 years

1270

00:49:14,470 --> 00:49:11,760

and yet

1271

00:49:16,309 --> 00:49:14,480

they are somehow also the primitive

1272

00:49:17,670 --> 00:49:16,319

bumblers who ran out of room to carve

1273

00:49:20,950 --> 00:49:17,680

the sphinx

1274

00:49:23,109 --> 00:49:20,960

you simply can't have it both ways

1275

00:49:24,390 --> 00:49:23,119

so if the head of the sphinx was

1276

00:49:26,549 --> 00:49:24,400

recarved

1277

00:49:28,710 --> 00:49:26,559

what did it look like before

1278

00:49:31,030 --> 00:49:28,720

the most popular theory is the most

1279

00:49:33,829 --> 00:49:31,040

obvious which is that it used to have

1280

00:49:36,069 --> 00:49:33,839

the head of a lion to match its body

1281

00:49:38,230 --> 00:49:36,079

and here we once again run into the

1282

00:49:39,270 --> 00:49:38,240

question of astrological alignment

1283

00:49:42,069 --> 00:49:39,280

because

1284

00:49:44,069 --> 00:49:42,079

if the sphinx was originally a lion then

1285

00:49:45,270 --> 00:49:44,079

might have been carved during the age of

1286

00:49:47,190 --> 00:49:45,280

leo

1287

00:49:48,950 --> 00:49:47,200

it's impossible to know but it's an

1288

00:49:49,990 --> 00:49:48,960

intriguing theory

1289

00:49:52,710 --> 00:49:50,000

however

1290

00:49:54,230 --> 00:49:52,720

the fact that during the age of leo the

1291

00:49:56,470 --> 00:49:54,240

sphinx would have been facing the

1292

00:49:57,670 --> 00:49:56,480

constellation of leo on the vernal

1293

00:49:59,750 --> 00:49:57,680

equinox

1294

00:50:01,030 --> 00:49:59,760

makes this possibility even more

1295

00:50:04,230 --> 00:50:01,040

compelling

1296

00:50:08,309 --> 00:50:04,240

the last age of leo lasted from 10

1297

00:50:10,710 --> 00:50:08,319

500 bc to 8000 bc

1298

00:50:13,990 --> 00:50:10,720

which also aligns with shock's proposed

1299

00:50:16,630 --> 00:50:14,000

age of the sphinx at 12 000 years old

1300

00:50:18,790 --> 00:50:16,640

once again it's not proof but it's an

1301

00:50:21,349 --> 00:50:18,800

interesting possibility

1302

00:50:23,670 --> 00:50:21,359

i went looking for arguments against

1303

00:50:26,069 --> 00:50:23,680

shocks dating of the sphinx because i

1304

00:50:28,390 --> 00:50:26,079

truly wanted to understand why the

1305

00:50:29,430 --> 00:50:28,400

academic community is so opposed to this

1306

00:50:31,349 --> 00:50:29,440

idea

1307

00:50:33,750 --> 00:50:31,359

and i gotta tell you

1308

00:50:35,910 --> 00:50:33,760

i couldn't find much beyond what's been

1309

00:50:38,230 --> 00:50:35,920

presented here so far

1310

00:50:40,870 --> 00:50:38,240

there is one argument that the sphinx is

1311

00:50:44,309 --> 00:50:40,880

a lightly shaped yardang or a rock

1312

00:50:46,470 --> 00:50:44,319

outcropping shaped by wind-based erosion

1313

00:50:48,309 --> 00:50:46,480

basically the idea is that the sphinx

1314

00:50:50,309 --> 00:50:48,319

used to be a rock outcropping that

1315

00:50:52,150 --> 00:50:50,319

looked kind of like a sphinx and then

1316

00:50:54,790 --> 00:50:52,160

they just carved it a little to make the

1317

00:50:56,710 --> 00:50:54,800

resemblance more exact this is a

1318

00:50:59,750 --> 00:50:56,720

possibility but given the way that the

1319

00:51:02,790 --> 00:50:59,760

sphinx is carved down into the bedrock

1320

00:51:05,270 --> 00:51:02,800

it feels unlikely that this was the case

1321

00:51:07,829 --> 00:51:05,280

other than that the only real argument

1322

00:51:09,829 --> 00:51:07,839

against shock's aging of the sphinx was

1323

00:51:12,950 --> 00:51:09,839

something that when he first presented

1324

00:51:14,150 --> 00:51:12,960

it in 1991 was a very fair argument

1325

00:51:16,630 --> 00:51:14,160

which was

1326

00:51:18,549 --> 00:51:16,640

if there was a civilization advanced

1327

00:51:20,549 --> 00:51:18,559

enough to have created the sphinx

1328

00:51:23,109 --> 00:51:20,559

thousands of years before it was thought

1329

00:51:25,750 --> 00:51:23,119

to have been built then where was the

1330

00:51:28,230 --> 00:51:25,760

other evidence of this civilization

1331

00:51:31,829 --> 00:51:28,240

shouldn't there be something

1332

00:51:35,190 --> 00:51:31,839

but just four years later in 1995

1333

00:51:37,510 --> 00:51:35,200

excavations began at gobekli tepe

1334

00:51:40,390 --> 00:51:37,520

here was the proof that humans were

1335

00:51:42,790 --> 00:51:40,400

capable of massive and complex feats of

1336

00:51:43,829 --> 00:51:42,800

engineering at the end of the last ice

1337

00:51:46,390 --> 00:51:43,839

age

1338

00:51:49,190 --> 00:51:46,400

so why exactly are mainstream

1339

00:51:51,829 --> 00:51:49,200

egyptologists so adamantly opposed to

1340

00:51:54,069 --> 00:51:51,839

even considering the possibility that

1341

00:51:55,829 --> 00:51:54,079

the sphinx may be older than previously

1342

00:51:58,630 --> 00:51:55,839

thought

1343

00:52:00,390 --> 00:51:58,640

in february 1992 the american

1344

00:52:03,109 --> 00:52:00,400

association for the advancement of

1345

00:52:05,990 --> 00:52:03,119

science hosted a heated debate on the

1346

00:52:08,390 --> 00:52:06,000

subject between shock and dr mark laner

1347

00:52:10,630 --> 00:52:08,400

of the university of chicago

1348

00:52:13,190 --> 00:52:10,640

during this debate laners said

1349

00:52:15,190 --> 00:52:13,200

you don't overthrow egyptian history

1350

00:52:16,870 --> 00:52:15,200

based on one phenomenon like a

1351

00:52:19,430 --> 00:52:16,880

weathering profile

1352

00:52:21,109 --> 00:52:19,440

that is how pseudoscience is done not

1353

00:52:23,430 --> 00:52:21,119

real science

1354

00:52:26,390 --> 00:52:23,440

and though it represents the consensus

1355

00:52:29,109 --> 00:52:26,400

opinion of mainstream egyptology

1356

00:52:30,710 --> 00:52:29,119

this statement is both telling and

1357

00:52:33,750 --> 00:52:30,720

nonsensical

1358

00:52:35,270 --> 00:52:33,760

egyptian history like all history is

1359

00:52:37,589 --> 00:52:35,280

just a story

1360

00:52:40,630 --> 00:52:37,599

it's a story compiled not of all that

1361

00:52:43,270 --> 00:52:40,640

was but of what little still remains

1362

00:52:45,829 --> 00:52:43,280

interpreted imperfectly by the dominant

1363

00:52:47,750 --> 00:52:45,839

culture of the time period and passed

1364

00:52:49,030 --> 00:52:47,760

down and reinterpreted through the

1365

00:52:51,349 --> 00:52:49,040

millennia

1366

00:52:54,470 --> 00:52:51,359

it's a messy game of telephone

1367

00:52:56,390 --> 00:52:54,480

history isn't a science it's an echo

1368

00:52:57,510 --> 00:52:56,400

it's a shadow play

1369

00:53:00,870 --> 00:52:57,520

so yes

1370

00:53:03,829 --> 00:53:00,880

when you find solid observable data like

1371

00:53:05,750 --> 00:53:03,839

say a weathering profile and it doesn't

1372

00:53:07,430 --> 00:53:05,760

match up with the story that we've told

1373

00:53:08,390 --> 00:53:07,440

ourselves about what happened in the

1374

00:53:10,950 --> 00:53:08,400

past

1375

00:53:13,670 --> 00:53:10,960

we absolutely should be willing to at

1376

00:53:15,990 --> 00:53:13,680

least consider the possibility that we

1377

00:53:17,270 --> 00:53:16,000

may need to throw that story out and

1378

00:53:19,349 --> 00:53:17,280

start over

1379

00:53:22,309 --> 00:53:19,359

to say otherwise is to let the

1380

00:53:23,270 --> 00:53:22,319

conclusions dictate how we interpret the

1381

00:53:25,589 --> 00:53:23,280

data

1382

00:53:27,270 --> 00:53:25,599

and that is the very soul of

1383

00:53:29,349 --> 00:53:27,280

pseudoscience

1384

00:53:32,069 --> 00:53:29,359

and it is this exact type of

1385

00:53:34,950 --> 00:53:32,079

pseudo-scientific nonsensical argument

1386

00:53:37,270 --> 00:53:34,960

that is used to assail the reputations

1387

00:53:39,190 --> 00:53:37,280

and ruin the careers of scientists who

1388

00:53:40,230 --> 00:53:39,200

dare to question the established

1389

00:53:43,270 --> 00:53:40,240

narrative

1390

00:53:45,349 --> 00:53:43,280

and it happens all the time

1391

00:53:47,270 --> 00:53:45,359

once you look for it you'll see it

1392

00:53:49,190 --> 00:53:47,280

everywhere

1393

00:53:52,710 --> 00:53:49,200

so let's pour one out for the science

1394

00:53:54,390 --> 00:53:52,720

homies wherever and whenever they may be

1395

00:53:57,030 --> 00:53:54,400

who have put their careers and

1396

00:53:59,829 --> 00:53:57,040

reputations on the line in order to

1397

00:54:01,870 --> 00:53:59,839

follow the data to an unpopular and

1398

00:54:49,140 --> 00:54:01,880

inconvenient conclusion

1399

00:54:49,150 --> 00:54:56,549

[Music]

1400

00:54:56,559 --> 00:55:07,370

so

1401

00:55:07,380 --> 00:55:16,390

[Music]

1402

00:55:21,829 --> 00:55:18,870

despite the vehement protestations of

1403

00:55:24,309 --> 00:55:21,839

the academic community i find it very

1404

00:55:26,789 --> 00:55:24,319

hard to plausibly deny that between just

1405

00:55:28,950 --> 00:55:26,799

these two archaeological sites

1406

00:55:32,789 --> 00:55:28,960

we have evidence that a rewriting of

1407

00:55:34,950 --> 00:55:32,799

history may be exactly what's in order

1408

00:55:37,589 --> 00:55:34,960

but are just these two archaeological

1409

00:55:40,630 --> 00:55:37,599

sites enough to make that claim

1410

00:55:42,549 --> 00:55:40,640

i'd argue that we only actually need one

1411

00:55:44,069 --> 00:55:42,559

gobekli tepe

1412

00:55:47,430 --> 00:55:44,079

the fact that it was carefully and

1413

00:55:49,430 --> 00:55:47,440

meticulously buried 10 000 years ago

1414

00:55:51,430 --> 00:55:49,440

means this site has been preserved in a

1415

00:55:52,470 --> 00:55:51,440

way that we rarely see in megalithic

1416

00:55:54,870 --> 00:55:52,480

sites

1417

00:55:58,470 --> 00:55:54,880

giving us a literally unparalleled

1418

00:56:01,349 --> 00:55:58,480

glimpse into humanity's distant past

1419

00:56:03,910 --> 00:56:01,359

and what we found looks absolutely

1420

00:56:06,390 --> 00:56:03,920

nothing like what we would have expected

1421

00:56:09,030 --> 00:56:06,400

and defies virtually every assumption we

1422

00:56:10,549 --> 00:56:09,040

had about who these people were what

1423

00:56:12,230 --> 00:56:10,559

their lives were like and the

1424

00:56:13,430 --> 00:56:12,240

engineering feats of which they were

1425

00:56:16,069 --> 00:56:13,440

capable

1426
00:56:17,910 --> 00:56:16,079
it's been almost 30 years since gobekli

1427
00:56:20,069 --> 00:56:17,920
tepe was discovered

1428
00:56:22,470 --> 00:56:20,079
it's time to admit that when it comes to

1429
00:56:24,390 --> 00:56:22,480
the emergence of human civilization

1430
00:56:27,190 --> 00:56:24,400
we had it all wrong

1431
00:56:29,109 --> 00:56:27,200
and on some level mainstream archaeology

1432
00:56:31,349 --> 00:56:29,119
must know this

1433
00:56:32,870 --> 00:56:31,359
they don't dispute these dates only the

1434
00:56:35,349 --> 00:56:32,880
conclusions

1435
00:56:37,910 --> 00:56:35,359
but how can anyone deny that gobekli

1436
00:56:39,670 --> 00:56:37,920
tepe nearly doubles the amount of time

1437
00:56:42,230 --> 00:56:39,680
that there has been something like high

1438
00:56:44,150 --> 00:56:42,240

civilization on this planet however

1439

00:56:45,589 --> 00:56:44,160

erratic and flickering that light may

1440

00:56:48,150 --> 00:56:45,599

have been

1441

00:56:50,789 --> 00:56:48,160

i think that beyond the typical academic

1442

00:56:52,470 --> 00:56:50,799

bias against paradigm breaking ideas

1443

00:56:54,390 --> 00:56:52,480

there are a few other reasons for this

1444

00:56:56,549 --> 00:56:54,400

resistance

1445

00:56:59,829 --> 00:56:56,559

the first is that we still don't know

1446

00:57:01,510 --> 00:56:59,839

what gobekli tepe actually was

1447

00:57:03,750 --> 00:57:01,520

most scholars seem to believe that it

1448

00:57:06,150 --> 00:57:03,760

was probably a temple of some kind used

1449

00:57:07,510 --> 00:57:06,160

for religious rights and rituals but we

1450

00:57:09,589 --> 00:57:07,520

really don't know

1451
00:57:11,910 --> 00:57:09,599
and the completely anomalous nature of

1452
00:57:14,710 --> 00:57:11,920
this site seemingly standing alone in

1453
00:57:17,190 --> 00:57:14,720
history without context makes it even

1454
00:57:19,349 --> 00:57:17,200
more difficult to make sense of

1455
00:57:21,349 --> 00:57:19,359
who were these people and why did they

1456
00:57:23,750 --> 00:57:21,359
build this place

1457
00:57:26,470 --> 00:57:23,760
mainstream archaeology has chosen to

1458
00:57:28,470 --> 00:57:26,480
simply set gobekli tepe down into the

1459
00:57:30,870 --> 00:57:28,480
existing version of the story of what

1460
00:57:31,670 --> 00:57:30,880
our ancestors were up to 12 000 years

1461
00:57:33,589 --> 00:57:31,680
ago

1462
00:57:35,109 --> 00:57:33,599
and will tell you that it was built by

1463
00:57:37,510 --> 00:57:35,119

hunter-gatherers

1464

00:57:38,789 --> 00:57:37,520

and to that i simply say

1465

00:57:41,270 --> 00:57:38,799

how

1466

00:57:43,510 --> 00:57:41,280

first of all the very nature of a

1467

00:57:45,589 --> 00:57:43,520

hunter-gatherer lifestyle is that a vast

1468

00:57:47,430 --> 00:57:45,599

majority of your time and energy is

1469

00:57:49,910 --> 00:57:47,440

spent obtaining food

1470

00:57:52,150 --> 00:57:49,920

it's hard to understand how a massive

1471

00:57:54,470 --> 00:57:52,160

collaborative megalithic construction

1472

00:57:56,150 --> 00:57:54,480

effort could be undertaken by people who

1473

00:57:58,710 --> 00:57:56,160

were living that way

1474

00:58:03,109 --> 00:57:58,720

for example the massive megaliths at

1475

00:58:04,230 --> 00:58:03,119

gobekli tepe are up to 5.5 meters or 18

1476
00:58:06,789 --> 00:58:04,240
feet tall

1477
00:58:09,270 --> 00:58:06,799
and weigh up to 50 tons

1478
00:58:12,710 --> 00:58:09,280
it would take approximately a thousand

1479
00:58:14,309 --> 00:58:12,720
men to move just one of these monsters

1480
00:58:15,990 --> 00:58:14,319
and though there are debates about how

1481
00:58:18,870 --> 00:58:16,000
this was actually done

1482
00:58:21,109 --> 00:58:18,880
it was undoubtedly extremely slow

1483
00:58:23,910 --> 00:58:21,119
extremely difficult work

1484
00:58:26,069 --> 00:58:23,920
and there were 250 of these megaliths

1485
00:58:28,309 --> 00:58:26,079
that needed to be quarried moved to the

1486
00:58:29,190 --> 00:58:28,319
location and then raised

1487
00:58:30,630 --> 00:58:29,200
so

1488
00:58:33,430 --> 00:58:30,640

if you're going to get done with this

1489

00:58:36,230 --> 00:58:33,440

project basically ever you're going to

1490

00:58:38,230 --> 00:58:36,240

need thousands of strong adults who

1491

00:58:41,829 --> 00:58:38,240

otherwise would have been hunting to

1492

00:58:43,750 --> 00:58:41,839

spend a lot of time very slowly hauling

1493

00:58:45,990 --> 00:58:43,760

very big rocks around

1494

00:58:48,230 --> 00:58:46,000

and meanwhile there must have been an

1495

00:58:50,230 --> 00:58:48,240

equally massive effort to gather enough

1496

00:58:51,349 --> 00:58:50,240

food to support this large assemblage of

1497

00:58:53,829 --> 00:58:51,359

people

1498

00:58:56,150 --> 00:58:53,839

dragging rocks is hungry work

1499

00:58:58,150 --> 00:58:56,160

and conceivably this could deplete

1500

00:59:00,549 --> 00:58:58,160

natural resources in the surrounding

1501
00:59:02,470 --> 00:59:00,559
area over a long enough time period

1502
00:59:04,470 --> 00:59:02,480
forcing them to go further and further

1503
00:59:06,630 --> 00:59:04,480
afield to find food

1504
00:59:08,950 --> 00:59:06,640
none of this is ideal

1505
00:59:11,190 --> 00:59:08,960
now granted there is the argument to be

1506
00:59:13,910 --> 00:59:11,200
made that this is actually exactly what

1507
00:59:15,910 --> 00:59:13,920
happened and that instead of the rise of

1508
00:59:17,910 --> 00:59:15,920
agriculture creating the conditions

1509
00:59:19,990 --> 00:59:17,920
necessary for the building of megaliths

1510
00:59:22,789 --> 00:59:20,000
as we previously assumed

1511
00:59:25,109 --> 00:59:22,799
that in fact the building of megaliths

1512
00:59:27,349 --> 00:59:25,119
led to the conditions that necessitated

1513
00:59:29,190 --> 00:59:27,359

the development of agriculture

1514

00:59:31,829 --> 00:59:29,200

and i will admit that this is definitely

1515

00:59:34,230 --> 00:59:31,839

a possibility

1516

00:59:36,390 --> 00:59:34,240

i'd argue that it's not just time

1517

00:59:37,750 --> 00:59:36,400

manpower and resources that would have

1518

00:59:39,670 --> 00:59:37,760

been potential barriers to

1519

00:59:40,710 --> 00:59:39,680

hunter-gatherers becoming megalithic

1520

00:59:42,710 --> 00:59:40,720

builders

1521

00:59:44,710 --> 00:59:42,720

but something deeper

1522

00:59:47,510 --> 00:59:44,720

many of the pillars and megaliths at

1523

00:59:49,829 --> 00:59:47,520

gobekli tepe are ornately carved with

1524

00:59:51,990 --> 00:59:49,839

decorative signs and symbols

1525

00:59:54,309 --> 00:59:52,000

some of them even have highly detailed

1526

00:59:56,390 --> 00:59:54,319

relief sculptures of animals so

1527

00:59:58,150 --> 00:59:56,400

basically animals are carved to look

1528

01:00:00,230 --> 00:59:58,160

like they are sitting on the pillars but

1529

01:00:01,109 --> 01:00:00,240

they are made of the same solid piece of

1530

01:00:03,990 --> 01:00:01,119

rock

1531

01:00:05,910 --> 01:00:04,000

the difficulty of that alone is hard to

1532

01:00:08,630 --> 01:00:05,920

overstate

1533

01:00:11,349 --> 01:00:08,640

gobekli tepe doesn't just represent an

1534

01:00:13,670 --> 01:00:11,359

engineering and architectural marvel

1535

01:00:15,910 --> 01:00:13,680

but an artistic one as well

1536

01:00:18,549 --> 01:00:15,920

its carvings and sculptures are as

1537

01:00:20,150 --> 01:00:18,559

expressive as they are detailed

1538

01:00:22,470 --> 01:00:20,160

are we to believe that our

1539

01:00:24,470 --> 01:00:22,480

hunter-gatherer ancestors emerged from

1540

01:00:26,789 --> 01:00:24,480

the last ice age and that one of the

1541

01:00:30,230 --> 01:00:26,799

very first things that they built was

1542

01:00:31,430 --> 01:00:30,240

this sophisticated this complex and this

1543

01:00:33,270 --> 01:00:31,440

beautiful

1544

01:00:35,109 --> 01:00:33,280

and this happened just out of nowhere

1545

01:00:37,270 --> 01:00:35,119

with no previous knowledge or

1546

01:00:39,430 --> 01:00:37,280

civilization to draw from

1547

01:00:41,190 --> 01:00:39,440

once again i ask

1548

01:00:43,349 --> 01:00:41,200

how

1549

01:00:45,589 --> 01:00:43,359

mainstream archaeologists don't have an

1550

01:00:47,910 --> 01:00:45,599

answer to that question though on the

1551

01:00:49,670 --> 01:00:47,920

other hand there admittedly isn't a good

1552

01:00:50,710 --> 01:00:49,680

answer to their prevailing question

1553

01:00:53,270 --> 01:00:50,720

which is

1554

01:00:55,430 --> 01:00:53,280

if the builders of gobekli tepe weren't

1555

01:00:58,230 --> 01:00:55,440

just hunter-gatherers and if a more

1556

01:01:00,150 --> 01:00:58,240

advanced civilization did exist at the

1557

01:01:02,230 --> 01:01:00,160

end of the last ice age

1558

01:01:05,190 --> 01:01:02,240

where is the other evidence

1559

01:01:08,150 --> 01:01:05,200

and that's more than fair

1560

01:01:09,990 --> 01:01:08,160

yes we can argue the unique situation

1561

01:01:12,789 --> 01:01:10,000

created by gobekli tepe being

1562

01:01:15,109 --> 01:01:12,799

intentionally buried 10 000 years ago

1563

01:01:17,109 --> 01:01:15,119

means that it is almost certainly much

1564

01:01:18,789 --> 01:01:17,119

better preserved than any potential

1565

01:01:20,630 --> 01:01:18,799

archaeological sites that may have been

1566

01:01:23,190 --> 01:01:20,640

around at the same time

1567

01:01:26,230 --> 01:01:23,200

but without any analogous sites to point

1568

01:01:27,030 --> 01:01:26,240

to it's all just speculation

1569

01:01:29,030 --> 01:01:27,040

but

1570

01:01:31,510 --> 01:01:29,040

is there evidence that it would be even

1571

01:01:34,470 --> 01:01:31,520

possible for an ancient civilization to

1572

01:01:36,470 --> 01:01:34,480

just be entirely erased like that

1573

01:01:38,710 --> 01:01:36,480

and it turns out that there is

1574

01:01:41,349 --> 01:01:38,720

if anything i'd argue that we tend to

1575

01:01:43,030 --> 01:01:41,359

grossly underestimate how easily

1576

01:01:44,230 --> 01:01:43,040

evidence can be lost to the sands of

1577

01:01:46,549 --> 01:01:44,240

time

1578

01:01:47,589 --> 01:01:46,559

there are many missing chapters of human

1579

01:01:49,510 --> 01:01:47,599

history

1580

01:01:51,750 --> 01:01:49,520

places where the archaeological record

1581

01:01:53,589 --> 01:01:51,760

goes quiet leaving us to wonder about

1582

01:01:55,349 --> 01:01:53,599

what transpired

1583

01:01:57,750 --> 01:01:55,359

one of the biggest of these gaps

1584

01:01:59,430 --> 01:01:57,760

occurred long before humanity existed

1585

01:02:01,990 --> 01:01:59,440

when the ancient hominids from which we

1586

01:02:04,950 --> 01:02:02,000

descended still roamed the earth between

1587

01:02:07,510 --> 01:02:04,960

5 million and 9 million years ago

1588

01:02:08,470 --> 01:02:07,520

that's four million years of missing

1589

01:02:10,470 --> 01:02:08,480

time

1590

01:02:12,549 --> 01:02:10,480

the evidence of whatever hominids were

1591

01:02:14,549 --> 01:02:12,559

doing at that time how they lived how

1592

01:02:15,670 --> 01:02:14,559

they evolved are essentially erased from

1593

01:02:17,829 --> 01:02:15,680

the record

1594

01:02:19,829 --> 01:02:17,839

almost nothing remains

1595

01:02:22,470 --> 01:02:19,839

this is likely because this was a period

1596

01:02:24,710 --> 01:02:22,480

of ice ages the intermittent cycles of

1597

01:02:26,950 --> 01:02:24,720

glaciation would have destroyed many

1598

01:02:28,630 --> 01:02:26,960

potential archaeological sites

1599

01:02:30,789 --> 01:02:28,640

and because the sea levels would have

1600

01:02:33,109 --> 01:02:30,799

been much lower with so much water

1601
01:02:35,109 --> 01:02:33,119
trapped in ice around the poles what

1602
01:02:37,270 --> 01:02:35,119
little record may have remained is

1603
01:02:40,069 --> 01:02:37,280
likely underwater now

1604
01:02:42,230 --> 01:02:40,079
the paradox of geological time is that

1605
01:02:44,950 --> 01:02:42,240
four million years can be both a very

1606
01:02:47,109 --> 01:02:44,960
long time and a drop in the bucket

1607
01:02:49,270 --> 01:02:47,119
that four million years was enough for

1608
01:02:51,829 --> 01:02:49,280
one branch of the ape family tree to

1609
01:02:53,029 --> 01:02:51,839
evolve into bipedal small-brained

1610
01:02:55,750 --> 01:02:53,039
hominids

1611
01:02:58,870 --> 01:02:55,760
and yet it's also short enough period of

1612
01:03:00,470 --> 01:02:58,880
time that it can be easily lost it can

1613
01:03:02,069 --> 01:03:00,480

slip through the cracks and be gone

1614

01:03:04,470 --> 01:03:02,079

forever

1615

01:03:07,190 --> 01:03:04,480

so if we're talking about thousands of

1616

01:03:09,190 --> 01:03:07,200

years tens of thousands of years at most

1617

01:03:11,910 --> 01:03:09,200

it's not unthinkable that an advanced

1618

01:03:14,710 --> 01:03:11,920

civilization could easily rise and fall

1619

01:03:17,029 --> 01:03:14,720

leaving little to no evidence behind

1620

01:03:19,109 --> 01:03:17,039

especially if they occurred during or

1621

01:03:21,349 --> 01:03:19,119

immediately before a tumultuous

1622

01:03:23,750 --> 01:03:21,359

geoclimatic time

1623

01:03:25,349 --> 01:03:23,760

like say maybe the event that killed off

1624

01:03:27,349 --> 01:03:25,359

most species of mammals at the beginning

1625

01:03:29,190 --> 01:03:27,359

of the younger dryas

1626

01:03:31,029 --> 01:03:29,200

and if that were the case

1627

01:03:32,150 --> 01:03:31,039

what might still remain of these ancient

1628

01:03:35,349 --> 01:03:32,160

people

1629

01:03:38,390 --> 01:03:35,359

the answer is probably not much

1630

01:03:41,190 --> 01:03:38,400

and what was there would be hard to find

1631

01:03:42,870 --> 01:03:41,200

and harder to conclusively identify

1632

01:03:45,430 --> 01:03:42,880

with a little bit of luck some

1633

01:03:47,349 --> 01:03:45,440

megalithic structures might still remain

1634

01:03:48,950 --> 01:03:47,359

though what state they might be in we

1635

01:03:51,510 --> 01:03:48,960

can't be sure

1636

01:03:54,069 --> 01:03:51,520

and there would be stories tales of a

1637

01:03:56,390 --> 01:03:54,079

cataclysm deep in our past and of an

1638

01:03:59,589 --> 01:03:56,400

advanced people whose very existence was

1639

01:04:01,109 --> 01:03:59,599

swept away by a calamity

1640

01:04:02,710 --> 01:04:01,119

and then there's the question that we've

1641

01:04:04,789 --> 01:04:02,720

been dancing around throughout this

1642

01:04:06,390 --> 01:04:04,799

whole episode

1643

01:04:09,029 --> 01:04:06,400

you've probably noticed that there is

1644

01:04:12,230 --> 01:04:09,039

this date that keeps popping up

1645

01:04:14,390 --> 01:04:12,240

twelve thousand years ago or ten 000 bc

1646

01:04:16,630 --> 01:04:14,400

right at this exact moment in time give

1647

01:04:18,789 --> 01:04:16,640

or take a few hundred years we have

1648

01:04:19,910 --> 01:04:18,799

three major turning points for the human

1649

01:04:21,910 --> 01:04:19,920

species

1650

01:04:24,710 --> 01:04:21,920

the end of the last ice age the

1651
01:04:26,789 --> 01:04:24,720
beginning of the agricultural revolution

1652
01:04:28,710 --> 01:04:26,799
and the first conclusively dated

1653
01:04:30,390 --> 01:04:28,720
megalithic structures were built at

1654
01:04:32,950 --> 01:04:30,400
gobekli tepe

1655
01:04:34,470 --> 01:04:32,960
so what the heck happened 12 000 years

1656
01:04:36,789 --> 01:04:34,480
ago

1657
01:04:38,870 --> 01:04:36,799
i submit there are two possibilities

1658
01:04:42,069 --> 01:04:38,880
that best fit the evidence

1659
01:04:44,549 --> 01:04:42,079
the first is that human civilization is

1660
01:04:46,549 --> 01:04:44,559
much older than we thought

1661
01:04:48,710 --> 01:04:46,559
i find it virtually impossible to

1662
01:04:51,190 --> 01:04:48,720
believe that a group of hunter-gatherers

1663
01:04:53,750 --> 01:04:51,200

would have or could have built gobekli

1664

01:04:55,829 --> 01:04:53,760

tepe without any kind of previous

1665

01:04:57,589 --> 01:04:55,839

context or reference point

1666

01:04:58,870 --> 01:04:57,599

it truly stretches the limits of

1667

01:04:59,990 --> 01:04:58,880

credulity

1668

01:05:02,390 --> 01:05:00,000

however

1669

01:05:04,789 --> 01:05:02,400

the implications of that are startling

1670

01:05:05,589 --> 01:05:04,799

enough that we may be hesitant to admit

1671

01:05:08,390 --> 01:05:05,599

it

1672

01:05:11,109 --> 01:05:08,400

because if gobekli tepe is in fact an

1673

01:05:13,349 --> 01:05:11,119

artifact of a more advanced civilization

1674

01:05:15,990 --> 01:05:13,359

with an understanding of engineering

1675

01:05:17,510 --> 01:05:16,000

astronomy art and perhaps even written

1676

01:05:20,230 --> 01:05:17,520

language

1677

01:05:22,630 --> 01:05:20,240

then what we have is this fully formed

1678

01:05:25,270 --> 01:05:22,640

complex civilization popping up out of

1679

01:05:27,589 --> 01:05:25,280

nowhere at the end of the last ice age

1680

01:05:29,990 --> 01:05:27,599

nearly 7 000 years before it was

1681

01:05:31,349 --> 01:05:30,000

supposed to have existed

1682

01:05:33,190 --> 01:05:31,359

but also

1683

01:05:35,029 --> 01:05:33,200

we intuitively know that that doesn't

1684

01:05:37,750 --> 01:05:35,039

really make sense

1685

01:05:39,750 --> 01:05:37,760

civilizations however they emerge don't

1686

01:05:42,390 --> 01:05:39,760

just come out of nowhere

1687

01:05:45,029 --> 01:05:42,400

it's a process and a progression often

1688

01:05:47,990 --> 01:05:45,039

with fits setbacks and false starts that

1689

01:05:50,309 --> 01:05:48,000

takes literally thousands of years

1690

01:05:51,750 --> 01:05:50,319

the last ice age also referred to as the

1691

01:05:54,870 --> 01:05:51,760

younger driest

1692

01:05:57,750 --> 01:05:54,880

only lasted about 1200 years

1693

01:05:59,829 --> 01:05:57,760

but as we discussed this was a rough

1694

01:06:01,589 --> 01:05:59,839

1200 years for anything living in the

1695

01:06:03,910 --> 01:06:01,599

northern hemisphere with the vast

1696

01:06:05,910 --> 01:06:03,920

majority of mammals over 40 kilograms

1697

01:06:07,029 --> 01:06:05,920

going extinct within a very short time

1698

01:06:09,670 --> 01:06:07,039

period

1699

01:06:11,829 --> 01:06:09,680

whatever caused this massive die-off

1700

01:06:13,829 --> 01:06:11,839

humans would not have been immune to it

1701

01:06:15,670 --> 01:06:13,839

and we almost certainly lost a large

1702

01:06:16,870 --> 01:06:15,680

percentage of the human population as

1703

01:06:17,589 --> 01:06:16,880

well

1704

01:06:19,829 --> 01:06:17,599

so

1705

01:06:21,829 --> 01:06:19,839

what this implies is that there could

1706

01:06:24,870 --> 01:06:21,839

have been some form of advanced

1707

01:06:27,510 --> 01:06:24,880

civilization that existed on this planet

1708

01:06:29,990 --> 01:06:27,520

before the last ice age

1709

01:06:32,870 --> 01:06:30,000

on top of whatever brutal conditions led

1710

01:06:34,710 --> 01:06:32,880

to the die-off of so many large mammals

1711

01:06:37,109 --> 01:06:34,720

rising sea levels would have likely

1712

01:06:39,029 --> 01:06:37,119

claimed most settlements on the water

1713

01:06:40,230 --> 01:06:39,039

which is where early humans tended to

1714

01:06:42,309 --> 01:06:40,240

build

1715

01:06:45,109 --> 01:06:42,319

perhaps the species sustained heavy

1716

01:06:47,349 --> 01:06:45,119

damages their achievements in cities all

1717

01:06:49,510 --> 01:06:47,359

but erased by the heavy glaciation and

1718

01:06:51,990 --> 01:06:49,520

the rising sea

1719

01:06:53,270 --> 01:06:52,000

but perhaps those that survived carried

1720

01:06:55,109 --> 01:06:53,280

this knowledge

1721

01:06:58,150 --> 01:06:55,119

perhaps there were strongholds where

1722

01:07:00,069 --> 01:06:58,160

life went on maybe not just like normal

1723

01:07:02,069 --> 01:07:00,079

but with at least enough stability to

1724

01:07:03,829 --> 01:07:02,079

preserve some of the culture of those

1725

01:07:06,710 --> 01:07:03,839

that came before

1726

01:07:09,270 --> 01:07:06,720

and maybe at the end of the last ice age

1727

01:07:11,990 --> 01:07:09,280

they built gobekli tepe

1728

01:07:14,630 --> 01:07:12,000

and might that explain why after 2 000

1729

01:07:17,430 --> 01:07:14,640

years of continuous use they carefully

1730

01:07:19,589 --> 01:07:17,440

buried it never to return again

1731

01:07:21,670 --> 01:07:19,599

whatever their reason for leaving

1732

01:07:24,069 --> 01:07:21,680

perhaps they still had a memory of the

1733

01:07:26,069 --> 01:07:24,079

cataclysm and an awareness that even the

1734

01:07:28,150 --> 01:07:26,079

mightiest of human achievements can be

1735

01:07:30,870 --> 01:07:28,160

erased from the face of the planet if

1736

01:07:32,390 --> 01:07:30,880

they are not carefully preserved

1737

01:07:34,950 --> 01:07:32,400

we may never know

1738

01:07:37,990 --> 01:07:34,960

but based on the evidence i reject the

1739

01:07:40,309 --> 01:07:38,000

idea that these are stupid questions

1740

01:07:42,230 --> 01:07:40,319

but there is another possibility that is

1741

01:07:44,470 --> 01:07:42,240

perhaps even more repugnant to

1742

01:07:46,789 --> 01:07:44,480

mainstream archaeologists

1743

01:07:49,910 --> 01:07:46,799

which is that humans may have been

1744

01:07:52,549 --> 01:07:49,920

assisted by an advanced intelligence

1745

01:07:54,390 --> 01:07:52,559

the reality is that whatever the origin

1746

01:07:56,150 --> 01:07:54,400

of the ufo phenomenon

1747

01:07:58,630 --> 01:07:56,160

based on the paradigm shattering

1748

01:08:00,789 --> 01:07:58,640

technology that these objects display it

1749

01:08:03,190 --> 01:08:00,799

is almost certainly an expression of a

1750

01:08:04,870 --> 01:08:03,200

highly advanced intelligence whether

1751

01:08:07,029 --> 01:08:04,880

that be extraterrestrial

1752

01:08:09,349 --> 01:08:07,039

ultra-terrestrial inter-dimensional

1753

01:08:10,870 --> 01:08:09,359

temporal artificial or some other

1754

01:08:12,549 --> 01:08:10,880

possibility that we haven't even

1755

01:08:14,710 --> 01:08:12,559

considered yet

1756

01:08:17,349 --> 01:08:14,720

and if the phenomenon is engaging with

1757

01:08:18,630 --> 01:08:17,359

human beings now there's no reason to

1758

01:08:20,309 --> 01:08:18,640

assume that they wouldn't have in the

1759

01:08:22,390 --> 01:08:20,319

past as well

1760

01:08:25,030 --> 01:08:22,400

in fact as we discussed in the last

1761

01:08:27,030 --> 01:08:25,040

episode most of these possibilities

1762

01:08:28,070 --> 01:08:27,040

would almost necessarily mean that they

1763

01:08:30,550 --> 01:08:28,080

had

1764

01:08:32,709 --> 01:08:30,560

and stories of these interactions appear

1765

01:08:34,950 --> 01:08:32,719

in our art historical records and

1766

01:08:37,510 --> 01:08:34,960

religious texts dating back to the

1767

01:08:39,510 --> 01:08:37,520

earliest examples that we have

1768

01:08:41,829 --> 01:08:39,520

making it impossible to deny the

1769

01:08:43,749 --> 01:08:41,839

possibility that this is something that

1770

01:08:45,829 --> 01:08:43,759

humans have been experiencing for

1771

01:08:46,709 --> 01:08:45,839

thousands of years

1772

01:08:51,189 --> 01:08:46,719

so

1773

01:08:53,269 --> 01:08:51,199

builders of gobekli tepe seem to emerge

1774

01:08:55,189 --> 01:08:53,279

from the end of the last ice age

1775

01:08:57,189 --> 01:08:55,199

seemingly out of nowhere already

1776

01:08:59,189 --> 01:08:57,199

equipped with the complex set of

1777

01:09:00,950 --> 01:08:59,199

knowledge and skills necessary to

1778

01:09:03,189 --> 01:09:00,960

undertake this kind of megalithic

1779

01:09:04,309 --> 01:09:03,199

building project is because they had a

1780

01:09:05,829 --> 01:09:04,319

hand

1781

01:09:07,430 --> 01:09:05,839

could they have been gifted this

1782

01:09:08,789 --> 01:09:07,440

knowledge from a more advanced

1783

01:09:11,829 --> 01:09:08,799

intelligence

1784

01:09:14,870 --> 01:09:11,839

and if so what evidence might there be

1785

01:09:17,269 --> 01:09:14,880

of this profound interaction

1786

01:09:18,149 --> 01:09:17,279

and so that's where we'll pick up next

1787

01:09:20,870 --> 01:09:18,159

time

1788

01:09:23,510 --> 01:09:20,880

by looking deep into humanity's past to

1789

01:09:26,309 --> 01:09:23,520

see what evidence exists that might shed

1790

01:09:28,630 --> 01:09:26,319

some light on these ancient mysteries

1791

01:09:31,349 --> 01:09:28,640

and finally we'll explore the

1792

01:09:33,749 --> 01:09:31,359

possibility of a major cataclysm during

1793

01:09:35,910 --> 01:09:33,759

the younger dryas and the startling

1794

01:09:39,430 --> 01:09:35,920

implications it could have

1795

01:09:43,639 --> 01:09:39,440

not just for our past but for our future